

# FRENCH VERBS

## PARTIR

## SORTIR

## QUITTER



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**Grammar topic:** French Verbs Partir - Sortir - Laisser

**Curriculum:** French Level A2

In French, there are three verbs that can all be translated as "to leave a place" in English: partir, sortir, and quitter. Each of these verbs has its own usage and nuances, so watch out. They are not necessarily interchangeable.

## PARTIR - TO LEAVE - PRESENT TENSE

Partir is used to express leaving a place or departing. It's often used when referring to traveling or going away.

Je pars à 8h.

I am leaving at 8:00.

Nous partons en vacances.

We are going on vacation.

JE PARS

TU PARS

IL-ELLE-ON PART

NOUS PARTONS

VOUS PARTEZ

ILS - ELLES PARTENT

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## PARTIR DE – TO LEAVE (FROM) A PLACE – PRESENT

The preposition “de” is required after “partir” when leaving a specific place.

Je pars du bureau à 8h.  
I am leaving (from) the office at 8:00.

Nous partons de l’hôtel.  
We are leaving (from) the hotel.

## PARTIR (DE) – TO LEAVE (FROM) – PASSÉ COMPOSÉ

When using partir in the passé composé, it's conjugated with être as a helping verb and is followed by the past participle “parti”. Agreement must be made between the subject and the past participle. “Partir” is an intransitive verb. It does not take a direct object.

Je pars à 8h. I am leaving at 8:00.  
Je suis parti(e) à 8h. I left at 8:00.

Nous partons en vacances. We are going on vacation.  
Nous sommes parti(e)(s) en vacances. We left (went) on vacation.

Je pars du bureau à 8h. I’m leaving the office at 8:00.  
Je suis parti(e) du bureau à 8h. I left the office at 8:00.

Nous partons de l’hôtel. We are leaving the hotel.  
Nous sommes parti(e)(s) de l’hôtel. We left the hotel.

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# SORTIR (DE) - TO GO OUT - PRESENT TENSE

Sortir can also mean "to leave," but it often implies going out or exiting a place. The preposition "de" is required after "sortir" when it means you're leaving (exiting) a place. "De" is not required when "sortir" a place is not mentioned.

Elle sort du lit.

She is getting out of bed.

Tu sors?

Are you leaving / going out?

JE SORS

TU SORS

IL-ELLE-ON SORT

NOUS SORTONS

VOUS SORTEZ

ILS - ELLES SORTENT

# SORTIR (DE) - TO GO OUT - PASSÉ COMPOSÉ

Like partir, sortir also uses être as a helping verb in the passé composé when it means "to leave." In this context, "sortir" is an intransitive verb (no direct object), and agreement must be made.

Elle sort du lit.

Elle est sortie du lit.

She is getting out of bed.

She got out of bed.

Tu sors?

Tu es sorti(e)?

Are you leaving / going out?

Did you leave / go out?

Ils sortent ce soir?

Ils sont sortis hier soir?

Are they going out tonight?

Did they go out last night?

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# QUITTER - TO LEAVE - PRESENT TENSE

Quitter is used when someone leaves a person or thing, indicating separation (temporary or permanent). That person or thing is a direct object, making “quitter” a transitive verb.

Je quitte la maison.  
I am leaving the house.

Elle quitte son mari.  
She is leaving her husband.

JE QUITTE	NOUS QUITTONS
TU QUITTES	VOUS QUITTEZ
IL-ELLE-ON QUITTE	ILS - ELLES QUITTENT

# QUITTER - TO LEAVE - PASSÉ COMPOSÉ

In the passé composé, quitter uses avoir as a helping verb because it takes a direct object and does not require a preposition. This is what makes “quitter” a transitive verb. In this case, no agreement needs to be made between the subject and past participle.

Je quitte la maison.  
J'ai quitté la maison.

I am leaving the house.  
I left the house.

Elle quitte son mari.  
Elle a quitté son mari.

She is leaving her husband.  
She left her husband.

Tu quittes ton travail?  
Tu as quitté ton travail?

You're quitting / leaving your job?  
You quit / left your job?

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