

# Près de VS Proche de



Both **près de** and **proche de** are used to indicate closeness or proximity, but they are **not interchangeable**, and their grammatical roles are different.

## 1. Près de - Adverb of place (“near / not far from”)

- **Près de** is an **adverb**, which means it modifies a verb or indicates location.
- It is always followed by **de + noun**.

### Examples:

- Ma maison est **près de l'école**.
- My house is **near** the school.
  
- Le café est **près de la gare**.
- The café is **near** the train station.

[LLL French Club](#)

[View the full lesson](#)

- Ils habitent **près du centre-ville**.
- They live **near** downtown.

Think of **près de** as pointing to **location or distance**. You can also use it in comparisons:

- La boulangerie est **plus près de chez moi que l'épicerie**.
- The bakery is **closer to my home than the grocery store**.

## 2. Proche de - Adjective (“close / nearby”)

- **Proche** is an **adjective**, so it describes a noun rather than modifying the verb directly.
- It agrees in gender and number with the noun it modifies, usually followed by **de + noun**.

### Examples:

- Ils vivent dans *un quartier* **proche de l'école**.
- They live in *a neighborhood* **close to the school**.
  
- *C'est une ville* **proche de Paris**.
- *It's a town* **near Paris**.

[LLL French Club](#)

[View the full lesson](#)

- Nous avons *des amis* **proches de la plage**.
- We have *friends* **close to the beach**.

Since **proche** is an adjective, it can also describe relationships in a figurative sense:

- Elle est très **proche de sa sœur**.
- She is very **close to her sister**.

### 3. Key differences to remember

Feature	Près de	Proche de
Part of speech	Adverb	Adjective
Function	Indicates location/distance	Describes closeness of a noun
Agreement	None	Matches noun gender/number

[LLL French Club](#)

[View the full lesson](#)

Example	La pharmacie est <b>près de la gare.</b>	Une maison <b>proche de la gare</b>
---------	---	--

- Use **près de** when you want to say “*it is near something.*”
- Use **proche de** when you want to **describe** a noun as being “*close to something.*”

#### 4. Extra examples for tricky contexts. Both are correct:

- **Près de:**
  - Il y a un parc **près de chez moi.**
  - There’s a park (that is located) **near my house.**

**Près de** is an **adverbial phrase**. It tells you **where** something is (focus on where the park is located).

- **Proche de:**
  - Il y a un parc **proche de chez moi.**
  - There is a park (that is) **near my house.**

**Proche de** is an **adjective phrase**. It directly **describes the noun itself** (focus on what type of park it is).