

# Déménager vs Emménager vs Aménager



These three verbs look and sound similar, and they're all connected to the idea of *moving*, but they describe **three totally different stages** of the process. English has only one verb ("to move"), so this distinction is often confusing for learners.

Here's exactly what each one means, when to use it, and the patterns to watch out for.

## 1. Déménager - To move out / move away (changing residence)

**Déménager** is the verb you use when you are **leaving one home and moving to another**. It focuses on the **departure**, not the destination.

- Means **to move out** of a place
- Can refer to a person, family, or business
- Can take **de** (from) OR be used alone
- Sometimes takes **à** (to) when specifying destination

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## Examples

- Je **déménage** demain.
- I'm **moving** tomorrow.
  
- Ils ont **déménagé de** Paris l'an dernier.
- They **moved out of** Paris last year.
  
- Nous allons **déménager à** Lyon cet été.
- We're going **to move to** Lyon this summer.
  
- Le magasin a **déménagé**.
- The store has **moved** locations.

## Tricky point for English speakers

“Move” in English usually covers both leaving and arriving. In French, **déménager** only covers the “leaving/moving house” part.

## 2. Emménager - To move in (settle into a new place)

**Emménager** is the opposite of **déménager**. Use it when you are **arriving in the new home and beginning to live there**.

- Means **to move into** a place
- Always refers to the **arrival**

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- Takes **dans** or **à** for the destination
- You cannot *emménager de* somewhere — only *dans* somewhere

### Examples

- Nous **emménageons dans** notre nouvel appartement samedi.
- We're **moving into** our new apartment Saturday.
- Ils ont **emménagé** il y a trois semaines.
- They **moved in** three weeks ago.
- Elle va **emménager à** Bordeaux en mai.
- She's going to **move into** her new place in Bordeaux in May.

### Tricky point for English speakers

If you say “We moved to Paris,” English combines both ideas. In French, you might need **two verbs** depending on the context:

- Nous avons **déménagé de** Lyon et **emménagé à** Paris.
- We **moved out** of Lyon and **moved into** Paris.

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### 3. Aménager - To set up / furnish / arrange / convert a space

This one does **NOT** mean “to move.” It means **to arrange a space, to furnish, to renovate, or to make a place functional**. Think of it as setting up **a space after moving in**.

- To furnish or organize a home or room
- To convert a space (garage into a bedroom, attic into an office)  
To design/lay out a space
- Can be used for cities or infrastructure ("urban planning")

#### Examples

- Nous allons **aménager** la chambre du bébé.
- We're going **to set up** the baby's room.
  
- Ils ont **aménagé** le grenier en bureau.
- They **converted** the attic **into** an office.
  
- On doit **aménager** la cuisine avant d'emménager.
- We need **to set up** the kitchen before moving in.
  
- La ville a **aménagé** une nouvelle piste cyclable.
- The city **developed** a new bike path.

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## 4. Summary

Verb	Meaning	Prepositions	Example
<b>déménager</b>	move out move house	de (from) à (to)	Nous déménageons à Nice.
<b>emménager</b>	move in (arrive)	dans à	Ils emménagent dans leur maison.
<b>aménager</b>	set up furnish arrange convert	direct object	Elle aménage son salon.