

**PRECISIONS SUR QUELQUES VERBES:  
"SPECIAL MEANINGS OF CERTAIN VERBS"**

**PARTIR:** an intransitive verb (conjugated with **ETRE**) meaning **TO DEPART, TO GO AWAY, TO LEAVE FOR/FROM. IT CANNOT BE FOLLOWED BY A DIRECT OBJECT.**

Il est parti il y a une heure.

Il est parti pour Chicago.

**QUITTER:** a transitive verb meaning **TO LEAVE (a place, a person). IT MUST BE FOLLOWED BY A DIRECT OBJECT:**

Il a quitté la ville.

J'ai quitté ma femme il y a deux heures.

**LAISSER:** a transitive verb meaning **TO LEAVE BEHIND, TO ABANDON, TO LEAVE (SOMETHING):**

Il nous a laissés sans argent.

Ne laissez pas votre auto devant la porte.

Nous laisserons les enfants à la maison.

**RETOURNER, REVENIR, RENTRER:**

**RETOURNER** means **TO GO BACK TO a place mentioned.** **REVENIR** means **TO COME BACK FROM (TO) a place.** **RENTRER** means **TO COME (BACK) HOME, or IN, TO GO BACK HOME (à la maison, or chez with a disjunctive pronoun may be omitted after RENTRER):**

Il veut retourner en Europe

(He wants to go back--return--to Europe)

Il est revenu à New York la semaine dernière

He returned (came back) to New York last week

Nous revenons de France

We are returning (coming back) from France.

Il va pleuvoir, rentrons (à la maison)

It's going to rain; let's go in (go home)

Elle est rentrée tard hier soir  
She came in (got in) late last *night*

**PORTER, MENER, PRENDRE, APPORTER, AMENER, EMPORTER, EMMENER:**

**PORTER** can *ONLY* be used in the sense of *carrying*. **MENER** and its compounds are used in the sense of leading, accompanying, and usually only apply to persons and animals or to objects capable of motion:

Portez cette lettre à la poste.  
Menez Jean chez le tailleur.  
Menez le cheval à l'écurie.

**APPORTER, AMENER** mean *to bring to, bring (along with)*:

Apportez le thé au salon.  
Apportez votre violon.  
J'ai amené la voiture devant la porte.

**EMPORTER, EMMENER** mean *to take away, carry away, take with (along)*:

Il a emporté une valise  
He took a suitcase with him

Emportez ces assiettes  
Take these plates away

Plats à emporter.  
Take-out food.

Je vous emmènerai au théâtre  
I shall take you (with me) to the theatre

Emmenez ces enfants; ils font trop de bruit  
Take these children away; they're making too much noise.

The difference between **MENER** and **EMMENER** may sometimes be slight, but the prefix **EM-** strongly suggests *WITH, ALONG, AWAY*. When *AWAY* is meant, **EMMENER** must

be used. **MENER** cannot be used unless a destination is given in the same clause:

Il l'a mené chez le coiffeur (or emmené)

He took him to the barber (with him)

Si je vais au marché, je vous emmènerai

If I go to the market, I'll take you (along) with me.

**PRENDRE** is used when **TO TAKE** means *to seize, lay hold of, use, choose, absorb, etc.*  
*and when no carrying or leading from one place to another is involved:*

Prenez votre chapeau (emportez votre chapeau)

Take your hat (take your hat with you)

Elle m'a pris tout mon argent

She took all my money

Je prendrai un verre de bière

I'll take a glass of beer.