

Come and Go

The common verbs **come** and **go** are often confusing. One reason this happens is that **come** and **go** have the same basic meaning, but are used for different **directions**.

Come is used to show movement **toward** or **in the direction of** the speaker or the person being spoken to:

- My cousin is coming to see me next week.
- Are you coming to my party?
- May I come to your party, too?
- That man's coming toward us. Who is he?
- I need to make an appointment with Dr. Jones. Can I come to see him at 11:00 tomorrow?
- Dr. Jones is in a meeting at 11:00. Can you come for your appointment at 11:30?

Go is used to show movement **away from** the speaker or the person being spoken to:

- I'm going to see my cousin next week.
- Are you going to Bill's party?
- That man's going toward your car. Who is he?
- I need to go to the bank this afternoon.
- Ginny wants to go to Bora Bora on her vacation.

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Special notes

1 - The idiom **come from** (present tense) is used to talk about one's home town, home state, home country, etc.:

- Irina comes from Moscow.
- Joe comes from California.
- Uyanga comes from Mongolia.

2 - **Go** is often used with the preposition **to**:

go to bed / go to school / go to the movies / go to class / go to church / go to work / go to the grocery store / go to sleep / go to a party / go to a concert (etc.)

In a few fixed expressions, however, **go** is used **without** a preposition:

go home / go downtown / go uptown

Go is also commonly used with adverbs of place, direction, and accompaniment:

go inside / go outside / go away / go up / go down / go over / go under / go around / go with (etc.)

3 - **Go** is also used with many **-ing verbs**. These "**go verbing**" expressions usually describe leisure-time activities:

go biking / go bowling / go camping / go dancing / go drinking / go fishing / go hiking / go horseback riding / go ice skating / go jogging / go rollerblading / go sailing / go shopping / go skating / go window-shopping (etc.)

4 - **Come in, go in**

Come in and *go in* both mean 'enter':

[dentist's assistant to a patient who is waiting]

*Will you **come in** now, please.*

[at a beach on a cold day]

*It's so cold! I don't want to **go in** the water.*

Collocations with COME & GO

COME



in first
late
early
prepared
into view
to terms with
to a standstill
to an agreement
to a decision
to an end
on time
close
in last

bald

insane

missing

overseas

bankrupt

out of business

abroad

astray

crazy

bad

GO

