



The verb 'to leave' in Italian

The English verb to leave can be translated into Italian with three different verbs: *uscire*, *lasciare*, and *partire*. Actually, there are also other two verbs, which are *andare via* and *andarsene*, and I've included them here as well. Let's now focus on each of these verbs.



Uscire

This verb means to leave in the sense of physically exiting from a place, of **going out of a place** to go somewhere else. It is intransitive and is the opposite of *entrare*, which means to enter or to go in.

Here are some examples of its use:

Esco dall'ufficio alle otto - I'll leave the office at eight (now I am inside the building, I'll go out at eight)

A che ora sei uscito di casa? - What time did you leave your house? (when you actually left your house to go out)

"Dove siete?" "Stiamo uscendo dal cinema adesso" - Where are you? We're leaving the cinema now (we were inside the cinema before)

The verb *uscire* can also have other two meanings:

It can mean going out to socialize, seeing people, and hanging out.

Usciamo stasera? Ho voglia di vedere un po' di gente - Shall we go out tonight? I'd love to see people

It also means to date a person.

Francesco e Marta escono insieme da due mesi - Francesco and Marta have been dating for two months.



Lasciare

This verb means **to abandon someone or something**. It is transitive, which means that is always followed by an object, be it a thing, a person, or a place.

If *lasciare* is followed by a thing, it means to leave that thing behind (on purpose or because you forgot)

Ho lasciato la mia borsa sul tavolo - I've left my bag on the table

Sono senza soldi e non so dove ho lasciato il portafoglio - I have no cash and I don't know where I've left my wallet

Dove hai lasciato la macchina? Non me lo ricordo! - Where did you leave your car? I don't remember!

If you use it in reference to a place, it means that you are leaving that place for good:

Ho vissuto in Portogallo per due anni, ma ora l'ho lasciato per tornare a Roma - I have lived in Portugal for two years but now I have left it to return to Rome

Ho lasciato la mia casa in affitto, adesso vado a vivere in una villa in collina - I've left my rental house, I am moving to a house on the hills

Ho lasciato l'Italia per andare a vivere in Cina, ma non sono felice - I've left Italy to go to live in China, but I am not happy

Dobbiamo lasciare la stanza alle undici - We have to leave the room at 11

Finally, some examples with people:

Ho lasciato mio figlio con mia sorella piccola e sono un po' preoccupata - I've left my son with my youngest sister and I am a bit worried

Ho lasciato il mio ragazzo a casa e sono andata in vacanza con le amiche - I've left my boyfriend home and I went on holiday with my friends (in this case, it means that I am still with my boyfriend and that I am just going on holiday with friends)

Ho lasciato il mio ragazzo e sono andata in vacanza con le amiche - I've left my boyfriend and I went on holiday with my friends (in this case, it means that I have broken up with him)



Partire

This verb means to **leave for a trip** and it is intransitive. You can use it with places or means of transport (it always implies you are on a trip).

Here are some examples:

Partirò per Parigi domani mattina - I'll leave for Paris tomorrow morning

Sono partita per l'Australia due mesi fa e non voglio più tornare a casa - I left for Australia two months ago and I don't want to return home anymore

Parto dall'aeroporto alle dieci e arriverò a casa due ore dopo - I leave the airport at ten and I'll be home two hours later

Parto con il treno alle otto e mezza - I'll leave by train at eight-thirty

Il mio volo parte alle nove. Spero non sia in ritardo - My flight leaves at nine. I hope it won't be late.



Andare via and andarsene

Andare via means that you are leaving a place and **won't be coming back anytime soon**. *Andarsene*, a pronominal verb, has the same meaning.

Here are some examples with *andare via*:

Questa festa è davvero noiosa, vado via! - This party is really boring, I'm leaving

Mia mamma è andata via di casa quando avevo dieci anni - My mom left the family when I was ten years old

Dobbiamo andare via da qui tra dieci minuti - We have to leave this place in ten minutes

Here are the same sentences with *andarsene*:

Questa festa è davvero noiosa, me ne vado! - This party is really boring, I'm leaving

Mia mamma se n'è andata di casa quando avevo dieci anni - My mom left the family when I was ten years old

Dobbiamo andarcene da qui tra dieci minuti - We have to leave this place in ten minutes

