

Forget vs leave

To forget something

We use “to forget” something to mean that we haven’t remembered to bring something with us. (**We don’t mention the place where we left it**)

Examples:

- I have to go back. I **have forgotten** my ID.
- I am terribly sorry, I **have forgotten** my money.
- If you **have forgotten** your phone, you can use mine!



To leave something

We use “to leave” something with the same meaning as “to forget something”, but only if **we mention the place where we left it**.

Examples:

- I **left** my car keys at home; I have to go back.
- I **left** my briefcase on the bus. I need to get it back somehow.
- I realized I had **left** my jacket on the plane and went back to get it.

Typical mistakes:

Using “forget” and mentioning the place where you left something.

Correct I left my car keys at home. / ~~I forgot my car keys at home.~~ **Incorrect**

Using “leave” and not mentioning the place where you left something.

~~You are always leaving your ring.~~ **Incorrect**

You are always leaving your ring in the bathroom. **Correct**

Your are always forgetting your ring. **Correct**