

forget vs leave



B2 FIRST
learn how to do
Key Word
Transformation
exercises

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.

- 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!



I've forgotten my umbrella - what a nuisance!

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.

- 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.



I must have left my purse at home.

typical mistakes

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

~~✗ I forgot my car keys at home.~~

✓ I left my car keys at home.

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

~~✗ You are always leaving your ring.~~

✓ You are always forgetting your ring.

✓ You are always leaving your ring in the bathroom.