

# Missing or Lacking?



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### ... is missing sth

To not have something anymore (i.e. we have lost something) or we do not have something that we need.

- I'm missing my keys; I can't find them anywhere.
- The soup is missing the garlic I normally use.
- The essay is missing the conclusion because I ran out of time.

**Qualities/Feelings (Abstract):**

- The painting is beautiful, but it's missing something.
- He realized that something was missing in his career path.

### ... lacks sth / is lacking sth

To not have enough of something.

To be without a necessary quality skill, or thing. It is usually neutral and factual, not emotional.

- The team lacks experience, which is why they lost the game.
- She lacks confidence when speaking in public.
- Financial backing for this new program is still lacking.

**lacking (adjective) - Be lacking (in)**

- He's totally lacking (in) confidence.
- The team is lacking (in) energy today .

**“Missing” often implies that something should be there but isn’t.**

**“Lacking” is about insufficiency, not just “not present.”**

### Common mistakes :

Do not use “lacking” for something physically absent.

✗ This book is lacking a page.

✓ This book is missing a page. → A page was lost, torn out, or never included.

“Lack” is a transitive verb (followed directly by its object and without a preposition)

✗ He lacks in confidence. / ✓ He lacks confidence.

“Lacking” is used as an adjective here - Structure : be lacking (in) something

✓ He's lacking in confidence.

**is lacking something vs is lacking in something**

“Is lacking...” = Usually concrete things, countable items, or uncountable resources

- The team is lacking resources. / The project is lacking money.

“Is lacking in...” = for abstract qualities

Confidence, patience, detail, creativity → use “is lacking in”.