

emigrate/immigrate/migrate

Going somewhere? *Emigrate* means to leave one's country to live in another.

Immigrate is to come into another country to live permanently. *Migrate* is to move, like birds in the winter.

The choice between *emigrate*, *immigrate*, and *migrate* depends on the sentence's point of view. *Emigrate* is to *immigrate* as *go* is to *come*. If the sentence is looking at the point of departure, use *emigrate*. The point of arrival? *Immigrate*. Talking about the actual process of moving? Use *migrate*.

Emigrate means you are *exiting* your current homeland:

People are always saying there's no quality of life in Russia, and everyone wants to *emigrate*," he said. (*New York Times*)

Immigrate means you are coming in to a country to live:

Citizens from 17 European Union countries were given freedom to *immigrate* to Switzerland in 2007. (*Business Week*)

Migrate means to move, like those crazy Monarch butterflies that *migrate* from Canada to Mexico and back. It doesn't have to be a permanent move, but *migrate* is more than a weekend away, and it's not just for butterflies. "Snowbirds" are people who *migrate* south for the winter and come back north when the snow melts, or someone might *migrate* to another part of the country for work or to be closer to family. Here are some examples:

Nevertheless, it has often been assumed that dinosaurs did *migrate*. (*Scientific American*)

People are prepared to travel and *migrate* within America. (*Business Week*)

If you have ants in your pants and you have to move, remember:

Emigrate is from the point of view of the departure. Think *exit*.

Immigrate is from the point of view of the destination. Think *come in*.

Migrate is all about the moving. Think *move*.

<https://www.vocabulary.com/articles/chooseyourwords/emigrate-immigrate-migrate/>

Emigrate or immigrate? Complete the sentences

Arnold Schwarzeneggerfrom Austria to the United States.

Natalie Portman.....to the United States at a young age.

Did You Know?

Migrate, *emigrate*, and *immigrate* are all about being on the move. All those terms come from the Latin word *migrare*, which means "to move from one place to another."

Emigrate and *immigrate* sound alike, and it is true that both involve leaving one location and entering another. The subtle difference between them lies in point of view: *emigrate* stresses leaving the original place, while *immigrate* focuses on entering the new one.

You won't have trouble keeping them straight if you remember that the prefix *e-* means "away," as in *eject*, and the prefix *im-* or *in-* means "into," as in *inject*.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/emigrate>