

English Grammar: 'to achieve', 'to hit' & 'to reach'

1) to achieve (PT: *alcançar*) (Noun: **achievement**)

We use this verb to talk about arriving at a desired state or result by effort or by overcoming difficulty. It means “to accomplish something successfully”. Here are some examples:

- My son **achieved** excellent grades at school this year.
- She worked hard to **achieve** her dream of becoming a doctor.
- The team **achieved** victory after months of intensive training.
- He set a goal to lose weight and successfully **achieved** it.
- The company hopes to **achieve** record sales this year.
- You need a clear plan if you want to **achieve** your objectives.
- She finally **achieved** fluency in English after years of studying.
- His invention **achieved** worldwide recognition.
- We must work together to **achieve** a better future.

2) to reach (PT: *alcançar*)

We use this verb to talk about somebody or something arriving at a destination or arriving at an objective. Here are some examples:

Destination:

- She stretched her arms to **reach** the top shelf.
- We need to **reach** the airport before 6pm.
- The river **reached** its highest level after many days of heavy rain.
- She was relieved when she finally **reached** home after the long journey.
- He tried to **reach** her by phone, but she wasn't answering.

Objective:

- Scientists are working hard to **reach** a solution in the fight against cancer.
- After years of hard work, he finally **reached** his goal.
- By working together, we can **reach** a fair agreement.

3) to hit (PT: *bater*) (hit / hit / hit) (Noun: **hit**)

We use this verb to talk about a physical event (two things meeting with force), or about a sudden surprise. Here are some examples:

Physical event:

- He accidentally **hit** his thumb with a hammer.
- The baseball player **hit** the ball so hard, that it went outside the stadium.
- She **hit** the brakes just in time to avoid the accident.
- She **hit** her head on the table when she stood up.
- His car left the road and **hit** a tree, because of the ice.
- A powerful storm **hit** the coast last night.

Sudden surprise:

- He **hit** the jackpot at the casino and won an enormous prize.
- The company's profits **hit** a new record this year.
- The news **hit** him hard, and he needed time to process it.

Exercise. Complete the following using the verbs 'achieve', 'hit' and 'reach', conjugating as necessary.

1. Many psychologists say that it's not OK to _____ your children.
2. Jane is learning Japanese, and she wants to _____ fluency within 2 years.
3. A: Excuse me – when will we _____ Las Vegas?
B: In about 2 hours.
4. A: Can you help me, please – I can't _____ the sponges – I'm too short.
B: Certainly – how many do you need?
5. My son _____ very poor grades in school last year, so he's doing extra classes at home to improve his grades.
6. Last night, a tornado _____ the town of Springfield, and many houses were destroyed.