

English Vocabulary: 'to miss' vs 'to lose'

The verbs '**lose**' and '**miss**' can both be translated to '*perder*' in Portuguese, depending on the situation. But in English, the two verbs '**lose**' and '**miss**' have different meanings.

1) to lose (lose / lost / lost)

The verb '**to lose**' is usually used when we cannot find something physical.

- I always **lose** my wallet on Monday mornings!
- Peter **lost** his pencil at school yesterday.
- My wife often **loses** her cell phone.
- Yesterday, we **lost** our son in the shopping mall for two hours!

It can also mean that you had something, but you don't have it anymore.

- I **lost** a lot of money in the casino yesterday.
- Last weekend, I **lost** control of the car and hit a tree.
- Maria often **loses** her way when she drives.
- Today, we **lost** a lot of time in the traffic, due to an accident on the highway.
- My wife is so patient – she rarely **loses** patience with our children.
- I'm sorry - I'm completely **lost**. Where is the park, please?
- I'm sorry - I'm completely **lost**. What were you saying?

2) to miss (miss / missed / missed)

The verb '**to miss**' means "**not catch transport**" or "**not attend an appointment**". In other words, it is a failure to do something. Here are some examples:

- I have **missed** the bus twice this week.
- Susie **missed** her doctor's appointment this morning because she overslept.
- Leonard often **misses** his English class because he prefers to sleep.
- I never **miss** a flight.

Other meanings:

1) The verb '**to lose**' can also refer to the death of a pet or relative.

- I **lost** my dog yesterday. (*It died*)
- I **lost** my father two years ago. (*He died*)

2) The verb '**to miss**' can also refer to the sadness you feel when you are distant, or after a death.

- I really **miss** my pets when I travel.
- Please come home soon – I **miss** you so much!
- My father died ten years ago, but I still **miss** him.

3) The verb '**to miss**' can also refer to the failure of a shot, usually in sports. The opposite of "miss" is "hit".

- Brian **missed** the penalty. (football)
- Frank never **misses** a goal. (football)
- The policeman shot at the robber but he **missed**. (gun)



miss



hit

Exercise: Complete the sentences below with the verbs 'miss' or 'lose' (conjugate as necessary):

1. Damn it! I _____ my keys again!
2. I don't want to _____ my dentist appointment tomorrow. It's very difficult to reschedule.
3. I _____ my father in the Second World War.
- 4a. Every time that Peter goes to school, he _____ a pen!
- 4b. Every time that Peter goes to school, he _____ a class!
5. Hurry up! We are late! We will _____ our flight!
6. A: James – are you following the conversation?
B: No, sorry – I'm completely _____ !
7. I must go now. If not, I will _____ my train.
8. We _____ our mother fifteen years ago, and we all still _____ her.