

English Verbs: 'to stay' vs 'to remain'

The verbs *stay* and *remain* are usually synonymous, however the former is more informal and much more common in everyday conversations. The Portuguese verb “permanecer” can be translated to “stay”, “remain” or “keep”, depending on the context.

a) stay

1. temporary location
When I went to Europe, I **stayed** in London for two weeks.
We **stayed** home at the weekend.
I've never **stayed** in this hotel before.
The cat **stayed** on the bed all afternoon.
Stay where you are, I'm on my way.
How long will you **stay** in the hotel?
2. not change state
His focus was on **staying** alive.
Bob **stayed** awake all night due to worry.
How long are you going to **stay** angry with me?
Oliver **stayed** silent when the teacher spoke to him.
The town **stays** the same after 20 years.
The people have changed but the problems **stay**.
I intend to **stay** a politician all my life.
I intend to **stay** as manager for at least two years.

Phrasal verbs

1. stay up not sleep Bob **stayed up** all night.
2. stay away not approach Please **stay away** from me.
3. stay in not go out I'm going to **stay in** tomorrow.
4. stay out of not enter Please **stay out of** the kitchen while I'm cooking.
Stay out of this argument! It's not your business!
5. stay put not move **Stay put**, I'm on my way.
I'll move the table, but the washing machine will **stay put**.
Even in the winter the opening time **stays put**.

Suggested music: Sam Smith - "Stay with me"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQdQwCvVSFo>

b) remain (formal version of “stay”)

1. temporary location When I went to Europe, I **remained** in London for two weeks.
We **remained** home at the weekend.
I've never **remained** in this hotel before.
The cat **remained** on the bed all afternoon.
Remain where you are, I'm on my way.
How long will you **remain** in the hotel?
2. not change state His focus was on **remaining** alive.
Bob **remained** awake all night due to worry.
How long are you going to **remain** angry with me?
Oliver **remained** silent when the teacher spoke to him.
The town **remains** the same after 20 years.
The people have changed but the problems **remain**.
I intend to **remain** a politician all my life.
I intend to **remain** as manager for at least two years.

Note that using the verb “remain” instead of “stay” can sometimes sound a little pretentious, since it is usually used in a formal context.

Other vocabulary

- remains to be expect to happen The body is better, but the engine **remains to be** fixed.
John needs to pass, but it **remains to be** seen!
- remains (noun) remnants The police found a child's **remains** under the house.
The **remains** of the castle are a tourist attraction.
Please put the **remains** of your food in the bin.
- remainder (noun) mathematics $14 \div 4 = 3r2$ (14 divided by 4 equals 3 **remainder** 2)
What is the **remainder** when 20 is divided by 7?

Suggested music: Metallica - “The memory remains”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHKQ7ZE9pww>