Go is a word commonly used in literature and students will encounter many of its definitions. Many uses of this word involve leaving a location or being in movement. Most people have to leave their home to go to work or school. When you travel to a friend’s house you are going somewhere.

Another use of the word go relates to people’s body or behavior. For example, go as in to lose bodily strength or go as in energy or spirit. Narratives often focus on characters that are full of spirited energy because they can have unusual or interesting lives full of rich lessons. Other stories may highlight the changes a body can go through, like losing one’s hearing or eyesight.

Follow Up
- How could the word go be used to describe losing your eyesight or being enthusiastic about something? Do these uses of the word go have anything in common?
- How is departing from your house different than fleeing your house?

Spanish Connection
Go does not have a Spanish cognate. The word go originates from the Old English word gán, relating to the Middle High German word gân and the Dutch word gaan. Go may not have a Spanish cognate, but many synonyms of go do. For example, the cognate of proceed is proceder.

Word Changes
Went and gone are also connected to the word go because go is often used as an irregular verb. Went is the simple past and gone is the past participle of go. For example, “Frankie went to the library after school on Wednesday” or “Frankie had gone to the library many times before he checked out a book.” Students will encounter went and gone in literature, too.
Go

Go as in to depart (v)
- leave
- exit
- mosey
- vamoose
- depart
- withdrawal
- hightail
- bail

Go as in to continue in a certain way (v)
- persist
- continue
- carry on
- maintain
- head
- lead

Go as in to be in motion (v)
- proceed
- progress
- journey
- move
- travel
- flee
- retire
- pass

Go as in to lose bodily strength (v)
- fail
- lag
- sag
- wilt
- wither

Go as in energy or spirit (n)
- vitality
- animation
- pep
- vigor
- drive
- zest
- bounce

Go as in an effort to accomplish something (n)
- crack
- endeavor
- shot
- stab
- try
- effort

Go as in ready (adj)
- ready
- waiting

COMMON PHRASES
- Go about
- Go after
- Go ahead
- Go along
- Get go
- Get going
- Go on, now
- Go for it/Gold
- Let it go
- Good to go

IDIOMS
- Go belly up
- Go the distance

SPANISH CONNECTIONS
- to proceed / proceder
- to progress / progresar
- to pass / pasar
- to persist / persitir
- to maintain / mantener
- vitality / vitalidad
- animation / la animación
- vigor / vigor
COMMON PHRASES

Go as in to depart (v)

Go as in to continue in a certain way (v)

Go as in to be in motion (v)

Go as in to lose bodily strength (v)

Go as in an effort to accomplish something (n)

Go as in energy or spirit (n)

Go as in ready (adj)

SPANISH CONNECTIONS

IDIOMS
Go

Morphological Family for Go

Inflected Endings
- goes
- going

Irregular Spelling
- went
- gone

Compound Words
- outgoing
- go-cart
Morphological Family for Go

Inflected Endings

Irregular Spelling

Compound Words