

APSU Writing Center

Elicit and Illicit

Word	Elicit	Illicit
Definition	a verb that means to evoke or draw out	an adjective that refers to something that is forbidden

Elicit is a verb that means to draw something out of (evoke, extract, obtain, bring, evince).

- Example: They invariably **elicit** exclamations of approval from guests.
- Example: Dr. Peters **elicits** answers from his students in class.
 - Dr. Peters draws out (action) answers (object of verb) from his students.
- Hint: Remember **elicit** and **evoke** both start with the letter “e”.

Illicit is an adjective that refers to something that is forbidden either by laws or customs (immoral, illegal, improper, prohibited).

- Example: Words considered **illicit** in Victorian times are in common usage in publications today.
- Example: The car enthusiasts held an **illicit** race on Beachside Avenue at 1:00am.
- Hint: Remember **illicit** and **illegal** both start with the letter “i”.

Emigrate, Immigrate, and Migrate

Word	Emigrate	Immigrate	Migrate
Definition	the act of leaving a country to live in another	the act of entering a country to live	to temporarily travel to a different place

Emigrate is used when permanently relocating from a home country to a new country.

- Example: My parents **emigrated** from India about 10 years ago.
- Example: We are **emigrating** from Honduras.

Immigrate means to arrive in a new country after leaving another.

- The step after emigration that focuses on where you are going, not where you left.
 - Example: Our whole family **immigrated** to Japan for my mother’s job opportunity.
 - Example: To be closer to his family, he **immigrated** to Canada.
- Hint: You **immigrate** “into” places. You **emigrate** “from” places.

Migrate is often temporary and often refers to animals that move to different climates when the seasons change.

- Example: My grandparents **migrate** to Florida once the weather gets cold in the Northeast.
- Example: After **migrating** south to Mexico, monarch butterflies hibernate until spring.

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References

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