

To go in Danish

To go in English is a very broad term. *To go* describes 1) transport/change of place (to go to Denmark), 2) leaving (I have to go), 3) visiting/frequenting /see (to go to the cinema/doctor) - and a few more meanings.

The Danish verb *at gå* bears a traitorous resemblance to *to go* in English. Historically it is the same word and some of the uses of the word are the same, but *at gå* cannot be used for describing meaning 1) transport – unless you want to walk. Meaning 2) *to leave* and 3) *to visit/frequent* match the Danish *at gå* quite well.

1) Transport: No go! – unless you want to walk. – Skal/ tager/ rejser

Skal (til)

When expressing plans, we skip *go*:

- *Jeg skal til Paris i morgen. (I'm going to Paris tomorrow.)*
- *Jeg skulle til Paris i sidste uge, men på grund af vulkanen kom jeg ikke af sted. (I was going to Paris last week, but because of the volcano, I didn't go.)*
- *Jeg bliver altid nervøs, når jeg skal til Israel. (I always get nervous, when I've planned to go to Israel.)*

Skal plus means of transport: Only when underlining how you plan to go.

Go by:

Means of transport:

- to go by bike: at cykle
- to go by car: at køre (i bil)
- to go by bus: at køre med bus/at tage bussen
- to go by metro: at køre med metro/ at tage metroen
- to go by plane: at flyve/tage flyet
- to go by train: at køre i tog/ at tage toget
- to go by boat/ship/canoe: at sejle/tage færgen
- to walk: at gå
- *Jeg skal sejle til England denne gang. (I'm going to England by boat this time.)*
- *Jeg skal med metroen; jeg skal i Magasin og bytte et badebør. (I'll go by metro; I have to go to Magasin to have a beach toy changed)*
- *Jeg tog bilen på arbejde i går, det regnede.*
- *Jeg tog en taxa hjem fra julefrokost*

Tager (til)

Describes a changing of place. It's much more factual than *skal*. *Skal* you'll use when discussing plans, arrangements, timetables or tickets. *Tager til* you'll use when beyond planning, focusing on the place/absence:

- *Kan du gå tur med anacondaen? Vi tager til Hawaii en uge fra på torsdag. (Could you walk the anaconda? We're going to Hawaii for a week, departing Thursday.)*
- *Jeg gad ikke sidde i Fucking-Hulstrup og se tv, så jeg tog ind til byen. (I didn't want to sit in Fucking-Hulstrup watching tv, so I went to town.)*

Rejser (til)

At rejse means to travel (a long way or with more legs of journey, shifts), depart, or to leave for good.

- Han rejser hjem til Australien. (He'll move back home to Australia)
- Han har rejst meget. (He has been travelling a lot).
- Han skal arbejde i London, han rejste i går. (He's going to work in London, he left yesterday)

2) **To go in the meaning of leaving a place:** *at gå, at tage af sted (a somewhat longer trip)*

- Jeg skal gå klokken 13:45, jeg har et møde kl. 14. (I'll have to leave/go at 13:45, I have a meeting at 2 pm.)
- Sluk lyset, når du går. (Turn of the light when you're leaving)
- De pakkede deres ting, og så tog de af sted. (They packed, and then they left.)

3) **To frequent/to visit on a regular basis/ to have a leisure time activity.**

Like *to go, at gå* forms a lot of phrasal verbs describing activities rather than transport. Not all of these are the same in Danish and English, but some are and the principal behind them is the same.

- gå i bad (to take a bath)
- gå i biografen (to go to the cinema)
- gå i byen (to go out/to go shopping)
- gå i kirke (to go to church)
- gå i seng (to go to bed)
- gå i svømmehallen (to go to the public swimming pool)
- gå i teatret (to go to the theatre)
- gå i vandet (to go swimming in the sea)
- gå på cafe (to go to a cafe)
- gå på museum (visit a museum)
- gå på restaurant (to go to a restaurant)
- gå på udsalg (to go to the sales)
- gå på universitetet (to study in the university)
- gå til fest (to go to a party)
- gå til fitness (to go to the gym)
- gå til fodbold (to play soccer in a club)
- gå til lægen (to see the doctor)
- gå til spansk (to take Spanish classes)
- gå til tandlægen (to see the dentist)

And a million more.

Went – having been to a place

I went to may either describe a state or a transition:

State – var – describing

How did you spend your holiday? – We went to Athens.

*(Hvad lavede I i ferien? – vi **var** i Athen)*

More examples:

Jeg var hos lægen i går.

Jeg var på cafe med Madonna i torsdags.

Jeg var i Spanien for mit arbejde for to uger siden.

Han var på toilettet 8 gange på grund af kantine-maden.

Jeg var hjemme at skifte tøj.

I søndags var han på stranden med nogle venner.

Transition – gik, tog

Fucking-Hulstrup was a godforsaken place, so we went to town.

*(Fucking-Hulstrup var et hul i jorden, så vi **tog** ind to byen)*

More examples:

Det gjorde ondt, så han gik til tandlægen.

Vi tog i byen for at møde nogle nye mennesker.

Om vinteren tog vi altid til Thailand for at komme væk fra mørket og regnen.

Han sad som regel hjemme og gik kun ud for at lufte hunden.

Vandet var koldt, så jeg gik ikke i.

Plan not carried out (yet) – skulle

Vi havde aftalt at vi skulle til Italien, men så kom corona.

Jeg sagde nej til at gå med de andre i byen – jeg skulle på arbejde.

Skulle du ikke på arbejde? Det sagde du da i går!

Repeated activities, sports etc. – gik

Da jeg boede i LA gik jeg til ananas-yoga.

Folk gik tit i biografen i 70'erne – ingen netflix og kun en tv-kanal

Som barn gik jeg til svømning.