

Grammar Reference

Let and allow

The verbs let and allow have similar meanings – both are related to giving permission. But they're not used in exactly the same way.

Let and allow are both followed by nouns or object pronouns. 'Let' takes an infinitive without to, and 'allow' takes an infinitive with to. Both can be made negative with an auxiliary verb, and allow is often used in the passive form.

Form (allow in passive)

Subject + to be + allowed (past participle)

Take note

Here's another useful tip. In the **active voice**, **allow** takes the infinitive + to, but **let** does not.

*They **let** him **leave** early to go to the doctor.*

*She **let** her brother **borrow** the car.*

*They **allowed** him **to leave** early to go to the doctor.*

*She **allowed** her brother **to borrow** the car.*