

Words with related meanings are oftentimes misused or interchanged as their similarity causes confusion to some people. This is the case with the terms immigrant and refugee which both relate to people transferring from one country to another. Despite the similarity, these two have different meanings and are not quite interchangeable. This post will help you discover the difference between an immigrant and a refugee to help you use them more accurately in your writing.

The word immigrant is mainly used as a noun referring to “a person who comes to a country to take up permanent residence.” An immigrant is someone who chooses to resettle to another country seeking better work opportunities and a better life. Immigrants are processed under the receiving country’s immigration laws.

USCIS director who eliminated ‘nation of immigrants’ is the son of an immigrant

[Washington Post](#)

Immigrant accused of murders in Guatemala facing deportation

[ABC News](#)

Supreme Court Ruling Means Immigrants Could Continue To Be Detained Indefinitely

[NPR](#)

On the other hand, the term refugee functions as a noun pertaining to “a person who flees to a foreign country or power to escape danger or persecution” or “a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.” The main difference between an immigrant and a refugee is that immigrants have a choice to leave their country to seek opportunities elsewhere while refugees are forced to leave because of circumstances.

Australia Is Still Waiting for the U.S. to Fulfill Its Pledge to Accept Refugees

[TIME](#)

How to overcome religious prejudice among refugees

[The Conversation UK](#)

Syrian refugee's guitar opens doors to new life in Belgium

[Reuters](#)

Now that we have distinguished between the words immigrant and refugee, you should be able to use them correctly in your sentences. Remember that while both terms refer to people transferring from one country to another, immigrants do it by choice while refugees are forced to do so due to circumstances.