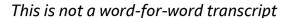
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

English In A Minute Hire vs rent vs let





James

Hi, everyone! We're going to talk about three verbs with very similar meanings today: **hire, rent** and **let**. I'm mainly going to explain how we use these verbs in British English. But I will also mention some American usage too.

Both **rent** and **hire** mean 'to pay for the use of something'. However, in British English we normally use the verb **rent** to talk about a long-term arrangement. For example, you can **rent a house, flat or TV**.

When talking about a short-term arrangement, we normally use the verb **hire**. For example, you could **hire a car, a bike or a suit**. The difference in American English is that the verb **rent** can be used for both long and short-term arrangements. The verb **hire** has a completely different meaning. It's used to mean 'to employ somebody.'

Finally, we have the verb **let**. You might hear this word in the phrase **room to let**, for example, which means that **'the room is available to rent'**.

Thanks for joining us everybody. Bye.