

# commence vs start vs begin

I noticed the word **commence** when I recite GRE, the meaning is similar with the word start and begin. The Oxford dictionary explain the meaning as: to begin to happen; to begin sth. Chinese meaning as 开始 So I start to think about the difference, and which context can use **commence**. So I dive into the example sentences.

“ The meeting is scheduled to commence at noon. Here commence used as intransitive verb. It means something starts.

“ I will be on leave during the week commencing 15 February. week commencing, week leave

commence is used in a formal situation start/begin is used more often in an informal situation.

According to the Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms

“ Traditional usage often supports the choice of commence in reference to court proceedings, religious or other ceremonies, or industrial, commercial, or military operations" (p. 94)

## reference

- <https://english.stackexchange.com/a/69835/327160>

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