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In 1975, after being away from Jamaica for thirteen years, I returned home intending to teach and give back to my homeland whatever I could. Michael Manley was the prime minister at the time and his swashbuckling, intemperate oratory was driving the middle classes away in droves. There was a drastic shortage of teachers, and in no time I found a job as a lecturer in English at a teachers’ college in a rural parish. My return home lasted one year. It was a hard year, one of the worst in recent Jamaican history. The island was destitute, crime was soaring, and many people expected Jamaica to follow the example of Cuba and fall to the communists. Going Home to Teach is the story of that year.

When I began writing Going Home to Teach I was squeamishly aware that I was not famous; that although I had written three novels, I was virtually unknown outside of Jamaica; that I had distinguished myself in no particular way; and that writing an autobiographical book expressing opinions on Jamaican culture might seem to some an act of presumptuousness.

It is a rhetorical convention to allow the famous to pontificate even in a field outside of their expertise. That is why football players can endorse pain relievers on television as if they were doctors. It is also why Bertrand Russell, the English
An explanation of “go home” and the common mistake “go to home.” Includes a description of adverbs of place. For students of English (ESL/EFL).

Important Note: The sentence “I went to home” is always wrong. This sentence uses a preposition. So that means that home is a noun. But, just like houses, homes are countable. Before a countable singular noun, you need an article (a/the) or another determiner (my/his/that/this). You can’t say “I went to home” for the same reason you can’t say “I went to house.” But you can say “I went to his house” or “I went to his home.”

Other Adverbs of Place. Here are some other difficult adverbs of place that don’t need a preposition:

By the Best Selling author of The Painted Canoe soon to be a major Motion Picture The Lunatic now a Motion Picture and The Great Yacht Race Anthony C. Winkler GOING HOME TO TEACH “Everyone going, and you coming.”

1975: Nobody could understand why anyone choose, in a time of raging democratic socialism and migrating panic-stricken middle-class Jamaicans, to leave the USA to go to Jamaica to teach. But for Anthony Winkler the reason was simple: he wanted to go home.