

Bring and Take

Contrary to what some might believe, “bring” and “take” are oftentimes interchangeable. While there may be those who prefer to observe a distinction between “bring” and “take”, it does not mean that those who do not observe this distinction are wrong.

Oftentimes the choice between “take” and “bring” depends on the speaker’s point of view.

- He brings his lunch to work every day.
 - emphasizes movement in the direction of the destination
- She takes her lunch to work every day.
 - emphasizes movement away from the starting point

This is the idea: “They take their lunch away from home. They bring their lunch to their workplace.”

- It’s going to rain. Remember to take an umbrella with you.
 - carry it with you from the point at which you start
 - It’s going to rain. Remember to bring an umbrella with you.
 - carry it with you to your destination
 - take away – go away – go from – leave – remove
 - bring to – go to - come to – arrive – put
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Usage Note excerpt from The American Heritage Dictionary, Bartleby.com

<http://www.bartleby.com/61/51/B0485100.html>

USAGE In most dialects of American English **bring** is used to denote motion toward the place of speaking or the place from which the action is regarded: **Bring it over here. The prime minister brought a large retinue to Washington with her. Take** is used to denote motion away from such a place: **Take it over there. The President will take several advisers with him when he goes to Moscow.** When the relevant point of focus is not the place of speaking itself, the difference obviously depends on the context. We can say either **The labor leaders brought** or **took their requests to the mayor’s office**, depending on whether we want to describe things from the point of view of the labor leaders or the mayor. Perhaps for this reason, the distinction between **bring** and **take** has been blurred in some areas; a parent may say of a child, for example, **She always takes a pile of books home with her from school.** This usage may sound curious to those who are accustomed to observe the distinction more strictly, **but it bears no particular stigma of incorrectness or illiteracy.** •The form *brung* is common in colloquial use in many areas, even among educated speakers, but it is not standard in formal writing.

<http://www.bartleby.com/64/C003/053.html> American Heritage Dictionary

A parent may say of a child, for example, **She always takes a pile of books home with her from school**, as the parent imagines the situation from the child’s viewpoint. This usage may sound curious to those who are accustomed to observe the distinction more strictly, but there is really nothing wrong with it.

Here is how “bring” and “take” function.

bring – indicates movement towards something – bring to

take – indicates movement away from something – take away

- Bring it **over here**. Bring it **over there**. Take it **over there**.
- But not: ~~Take it over here~~. – in the sense of moving something away
- Please take the trash away. Remove it from this place. Take it away from where it is now.
- Please bring the pizza over here. Put it over here.
 - over here = where the speaker is
- Please bring the pizza over there. Put it over there.
 - over there = another place
- Please take the pizza away.
 - meaning “Put it in another place. Remove it.”
- Please take the pizza over there. Remove it from where it is and put it over there.
 - Remove it. = Take it from this place.
- But not: ~~Please take the pizza over here~~. ~~Take the pizza here~~.
- ~~Please take the pizza to my house~~. You wouldn’t say this if you were at your house.
- Please take the pizza to my house. If you were somewhere else, then you could say this.
- Your “house” can be “here” or “there”. Take the pizza there. But not: ~~Take the pizza here~~.
- Your “house” can be “here” or “there”. 1. Bring the pizza here. 2. Bring the pizza there. You could say either one of these sentences depending on where you are.
- Take it from the pizzeria and bring it to my house. Deliver it to my house. Bring the pizza to my house.
- You could say, “Take the pizza to my house.” if you are not at home. Deliver the pizza to my house.

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