

# How to Know the Differences Between Bring and Take

The distinction between "bring" and "take" is often misunderstood in the English language. Fortunately, it's simple to explain.

**A easy distinction is that "take" associates with "going" from the speaker's perspective and "bring" associates with "coming."**

For example, if two people are standing together and one says "I'm taking this to John," he is going to John.

## **The distinction always depends on the point of view of the speaker**

The speaker brings something to where he is currently, and takes something to where he is not. For example:

- "I am taking a book to school tomorrow." The speaker is at home, and she wants to take the book to school.
- "I will bring a book to school tomorrow." The speaker is at school, and she is talking to a teacher about bringing the book to where she is now.
- "Can you bring a bottle of wine when you come over?" The speaker is asking the listener to bring wine to where the speaker is now. The listener would then reply "sure, I can take a bottle of wine with me," because the listener is not there yet.
- Bring "here"/take "there" (take it away):
- "Bring the form 'here' to me to sign, then you can take it 'there' to the manager's office. And, the manager can take it to the courthouse with the other forms." follows the same pattern.

### **Tips**

- Notice that the past tense works in a similar manner:
  - "He **brought** the laptop (to me at the station)".
  - "I **took** it with me on the train".

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