

Bring and Take

The verb “bring” and “take” are sometimes interchangeable.

- The verb “take” indicates movement away from something. Example: Take the trash bags away (from here).
 - The verb “bring” indicates movement towards something. Example: Bring the box to the conference room.
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A) These two sentences have the same meaning.

1. Take the trash bags away (from here).
 2. Bring the trash bags somewhere else (not here).
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B) These two sentences have the same meaning.

1. Bring the boxes to the conference room.
 2. Take the boxes to the conference room.
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C) These two sentences have the same meaning.

1. Take the boxes downstairs.

Sentence number one means remove the boxes from where they are now, and place them downstairs.

2. Bring the boxes downstairs.

Sentence number two means carry the boxes downstairs.

D) These two sentences have the same meaning, and they are both correct.

1. She takes her lunch to work every day.

Sentence number one emphasizes movement away from the starting point. She takes her lunch away from home and carries it to the place where she works.

2. He brings his lunch to work every day.

Sentence number two emphasizes movement in the direction of the destination. He carries his lunch to the place where he works.

E) These two sentences have the same meaning, and they are both correct.

1. It's going to rain. Remember to take an umbrella with you.

Sentence number one means carry an umbrella with you from where you start. Take an umbrella from your starting point and carry it with you until you get to where you are going.

2. It's going to rain. Remember to bring an umbrella with you.

Sentence number two means carry an umbrella to the place you are going.

Practice using bring and take. Decide whether or not it's possible to substitute "take" for "bring" or "bring" for "take".

take off	take back	take down	take out	take over
take away	take with	take to	take around	take into
take from	take up	take in	take on	take for
bring toward	bring back	bring down	bring out	bring over
bring forward	bring with	bring to	bring around	bring into
bring from	bring up	bring in	bring on	bring for
