

Apporter vs Emporter



Both **apporter** and **emporter** involve moving something from one place to another, but the difference lies in **direction** and **what happens to the object**.

This distinction is especially tricky for English speakers, because the English language doesn't always make it explicit.

Apporter - Bring (toward a place / to leave there)

Use **apporter** when you **bring something to a place** and **leave it there**.

The movement is **toward the destination**. You carry something to a final point.

Examples:

- J'**apporte** un gâteau.
- I'm **bringing** a cake.

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- **Apporte**-moi un café, s'il te plaît.
- **Bring** me a coffee.

- Elle **apporte** ses documents au bureau.
- She's **bringing** her documents to the office.

- Il a **apporté** un cadeau à ses parents.
- He **brought** a gift to his parents.

Emporter - Take (away / with you)

Use **emporter** when you **take something away from a place** and **keep it with you**. The movement is **away from the starting point**. You leave with it.

Examples:

- J'**emporte** ce livre avec moi.
- I'm **taking** this book with me.

- **Emporte** ton manteau.
- **Take** your coat (with you).

- Ils **emportent** leurs affaires.
- They're **taking** their belongings.

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- Nous **avons emporté** les meubles.
- We **took** the furniture (away).

Comparison Chart

Verb	Direction	What happens to the object	Example
apporter	toward a place	you leave it there	J'apporte une bouteille.
emporter	away from a place	you keep it	J'emporte la bouteille.

Real-life situation

You're leaving the house to go to a friend's place. Same action physically, **different intention** = different verb.

- J'**apporte** une bouteille de vin.
- You will **leave the bottle there**.
- J'**emporte** une bouteille d'eau.
- You are **taking it with you to drink**.

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Why this is tricky for English speakers

In English, both sentences might be translated as “I’m bringing a bottle.” French forces you to answer an extra question:

Will the object stay there, or will it leave with you?

That’s why native speakers instinctively choose **apporter** or **emporter**.

Special notes and frequent patterns

- **Meals & cafés**

- Sur place - **apporter**
- Le serveur **apporte** les plats.

- À emporter - **emporter**
- Je prends un café à **emporter**.

- **Apporter** is often used metaphorically for contributions:

- Cette expérience m’a beaucoup **apporté**.
- This experience **brought** me a lot.

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- **With “avec moi”** - Adding *avec moi* strongly signals **emporter**:
 - J'**emporte** mon ordinateur avec moi.
 - I'm **bringing** my computer with me.

How to remember

- **Apporter** - Bring it **there**
- **Emporter** - Take it **with you**

If the object **changes hands or stays behind**, choose **apporter**. If the object **travels with you**, choose **emporter**.

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