

Learn Korean Ep. 117: Bring and Take

"Bring" and "take" can translate to several different verbs in Korean. For example, you might want to say "bring me those sunglasses," "bring this present with you to school," or "bring your older brother with you to the party." Each of these would use a different verb for "bring" (or "take").

"to take" = 가져가다

"to bring" = 가져오다

가져가다 and 가져오다 both come from the verb 가지다 ("to have") – 가지다 is used specifically when what you have is on your person (such as something in your pocket).

핸드폰을 가지고 있어요.

I have a cell phone.

가져가다 comes from 가지다 and 가다 ("to go"), and literally means "to have something on your person, and go somewhere else." Or more naturally, "to take."

우산을 가져가세요.

Bring an umbrella (with you).

Literally, the above example would mean "take an umbrella, and go."

가져오다 comes from 가지다 and 오다 ("to come"), and literally means "to have something on your person, and come here." Since it uses 오다, it's only used when the motion is coming toward the speaker.

지금 가져오세요.

Bring it (here) now.

“to not bring” = 안 가져오다

Saying that you didn't bring something (or take something somewhere) is a common way to say that you “forgot (to bring) something.”

아, 이런! 선물을 안 가져왔어요!

Dang it! I forgot the present!

Literally this just means that you didn't bring the present (here).

가져가다 = 가지고 가다

가져오다 = 가지고 오다

가지고 가다 and 가지고 오다 have the same meaning as 가져가다 and 가져오다, only a bit longer. Feel free to use either.

가지다 = 갖다

가져가다 = 가지고 가다 = 갖고 가다

가져오다 = 가지고 오다 = 갖고 오다

가지다 can also be shortened to just 갖다, so this means the combinations 갖고 가다 and 갖고 오다 are also possible (and common).

However, all of these verbs are only for taking and bringing *things* that are on your person.

In order to say “bring” or “take” with a person or an animal you'll need a different verb.

“to take” = 데려가다

“to bring” = 데려오다

For people and animals, use 데려가다 and 데려오다. These work the same way as 가져가다 and 가져오다.

친구를 데려갔어요.

I brought my friend (somewhere).

누가 학교에 고양이를 데려왔어요.

Someone brought a cat to school.

데려가다 = 데리고 가다

데려오다 = 데리고 오다

You can also use 데리고 가다 and 데리고 오다 in the same manner as 데려가다 and 데려오다. Either set is fine.

갖다 주다

갖다 드리다

갖다 주다 is another way to "bring" something, and is a combination of 갖다 (가지다) and 주다 ("to give"). It literally means "to get something, and give it to someone else."

You can use 갖다 주다 whenever you're bringing something to give to someone else.

연필을 갖다 주세요.

Bring me a pencil.

When using humble speech, 주다 can become 드리다 ("to give").

선생님께 선물을 갖다 드렸어요.

I brought a present to the teacher.

Advanced Notes

When speaking with honorifics, you can also use 모시다 instead of 데리다 for *people* (not animals). This shows extra respect toward that person.

This will become 모셔가다 and 모셔오다, although you might also find 모시고 가다 and 모시고 오다.

If you're less comfortable using honorifics, you can think of these words as more formal versions of 데려가다 and 데려오다 – similar to saying “to escort someone.”

Conclusion

If you have any questions, feel free to send me a message through my web site or on YouTube. Good luck in your studies!

