

Phrasal verbs with “take” (take/took/taken)

Phrasal verbs are verbs that are combined with one or two prepositions or adverbs. Here are some examples using the verb “take”.

1) take after

to have the same personality (family)

My daughter **takes after** my wife – she loves outdoor activities.

2) take apart

to disassemble something

The only way I understand how something works is to **take it apart**.

3) take away

to take to another place (usually food)

Fast-food restaurant: A: “Is that to eat in or **take away**?” B: “**Take away**.”

4) take back

a) to return something

Please **take** the cheese **back** to the fridge, I don't want any more.

b) to retract words

Take back what you said, or I'll break every bone in your body!

5) take care of

to care for somebody's well-being

I have to **take care of** my sick mother every day.

6) take down

a) to remove from a high place

The firefighters **took** the cat **down** from the tree.

b) to remove from power

The military **took** the president **down** in a coup d'etat.

7) take in

to absorb information

I can't **take in** so much information, I need time to process it all.

8) take off

a) to remove clothes

Please **take off** your shoes – they're dirty.

b) to leave (airplane)

What time does your flight **take off**?

c) to run away

The thief grabbed my phone and **took off**. / The thief **took off** with my phone.

9) take on

to assume new responsibility

My boss asked me to **take on** another client.

10) take over

to assume command

The vice president **took over** the company when the president retired.

11) take to

to have affection for something/somebody

The cat **has** really **taken to** me.

12) take up

to start a new project

I'm thinking about **taking up** guitar lessons.

13) **take out**

a) to remove

The dentist wants to **take out** two of my teeth.

b) to take outside

John – please **take out** the trash.

c) to take someone on a date

It's my wife's birthday tomorrow. I'm going to **take her out** to a nice restaurant.

d) to assassinate

Big boss: "I want you to **take out** the leader of the gang."

Clip from "The Interview" (2014) (confusion over "take out"):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDRZ7QY8lwk> (1 min)

Exercise. Complete the following with a phrasal verb from above, conjugating as necessary.

1. Lizzie's new boyfriend is going to _____ her _____ tomorrow.
2. We need to _____ the wardrobe _____ because it's too big to pass through the door.
3. Maybe we could _____ the pizza _____ and watch a film at home.
4. He hasn't _____ his shoes _____ for three days – his feet must stink!
5. We don't want any more kids, because we don't want to _____ any more financial commitments.
6. His flight _____ an hour ago.
7. The sniper tried to _____ the truck driver, but he missed.
8. A: Who does your son _____ – you or your wife?
B: He _____ my wife! He is very stubborn!
9. Kids can _____ information so quickly – their brains are like sponges.
10. You really should _____ another sport – rugby is so violent.

Take someone for a ride – Trick or deceive someone.

Take one for the team – Sacrifice for the group's benefit.

Take no prisoners – Be ruthless or aggressive in achieving a goal.

Take someone at their word – Believe what someone says without doubt.

Take a shot at something – try something without any planning or forethought

Take a shot in the dark – Make a wild guess.

Take your time – there is no rush.

Take it easy – relax.

Take a break – stop for a short time.

Take a chance (on) – take a risk on something.

Take a hike – go away.

Take a rain check – postpone it to another day. (American English)

Take sides – choose a side.