

English Verbs: “get” vs “take”

The English verbs “get” and “take” are very common and can sometimes be confused. Let’s see how they are used.

1) “get” (get / got / gotten)

get a document	I need to get a new driving license.
get a present	I got lots of presents for my birthday.
get a message/email	I get hundreds of messages every day.
get sick	My father got pneumonia last week, so he’s in the hospital.
get to somewhere	We got to the airport ten minutes before our flight.
get info (understand)	A: Did you get what I said? B: Yes – I got it!
get a promotion	My husband got a promotion last month. He’s a manager now!
get a fish	I went fishing yesterday and got ten fish!
get a criminal	A good detective always gets the perpetrator.
get something (buy)	I went shopping yesterday and got a Gucci handbag.
get something	Can you get a cup of tea for me, please?
get somebody	I get my son from school at 6pm every day.
get injured	John got injured yesterday in a football game.
get a position	My daughter got first place in her geography test yesterday.
get a grade	I got 95% in my maths test!
get rich	If you don’t work hard, you’ll never get rich!
get old	My grandfather is getting old.

Recommended video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnxVPTIuJRc> (7 mins)

2) “take” (take / took / taken)

take a bath / shower	I'm so dirty – I'm going to take a shower. My son takes a bath twice a week.
take a photo / picture	Can you please take a photo of us? When I went on vacation I took hundreds of pictures.
take a bus / plane / taxi	I need to take a taxi as my car is being repaired. A: Where is Jane? B: She took a bus to town.
take medicine	My grandma takes a lot of medicine every day. Have you taken your medicine?
take a break	Phew. I'm exhausted. I need to take a break. Let's take a break for 15 minutes.
take a class / course	Have you ever taken a hot yoga class? I think I will take a French course.
take something (steal)	That man took my phone! Call the police! I'm sure that somebody is taking money from the company.
take card/money	Do you take American Express? Most restaurants take credit and debit cards.
take somebody	I take my son to school at 7am every day. Can you please take me to the airport?
Recommended video:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuyxMj7Es5o (10 mins)

Phrasal verbs

1) “get”

- get up** to rise (from bed)
Example: I **get up** at 6am every day except Sundays.
- get on** to embark (transport)
Example: When the doors open you can **get on** the bus.
- get off** to disembark (transport)
Example: We need to **get off** the train at the next station.
- get through** to endure
Example: I hope we can **get through** this pandemic.
- get on with** to have a good relationship
Example: I **get on with** all my brothers.

2) “take”

- take after** to have the same personality (family)
Example: My daughter **takes after** my wife – she loves outdoor activities.
- take away** to take to another place (usually food)
Example: A: “Do you want to eat in or **take away**?” B: “**Take away.**” (UK)
(USA: *take out*)
- take care of** to care for somebody
Example: I have to **take care of** my sick mother every day.
Example: My wife **takes care of** our kids when I go to work.
- take off** a) to remove clothes
Example: Please **take off** your shoes – they’re dirty.
b) to leave (airplane)
Example: What time does your flight **take off**?
- take on** to assume new responsibility
Example: My boss asked me to **take on** another client.
- take out** a) to remove
Example: The dentist needs to **take out** two of my teeth.
b) to take outside
Example: John - please **take out** the trash.
c) to take someone on a date
Example: I’m going to **take out** my wife to a fancy restaurant tonight.
d) to assassinate
Example: Crime boss: “I want you to **take out** the leader of the gang.”