

How would you explain what the word 'take' means? Try to write a definition.

How many different expressions and phrasal verbs with the word 'take' can you think of.

Work with a partner and in two minutes, write down as many meanings and uses of the word 'take' as you can.

**phrasal verbs:**

*e.g. take in*

**take**

**different meanings:**

*e.g. carry or bring - 'How many cases are you going to take on holiday?'*

**expressions**

*e.g. take it on the chin*

1

In each of the sentences below replace the word 'take' with one of the words or phrases in the box. You may need to change the tense or the preposition that follows the verb.

bring	withstand	buy	interpretation	leads
subtract	contain	occupy	travel by	make use of

**j** You need a bigger case. That one won't take all your clothes.

**a** Normally I take the bus but today I took a taxi?

**i** It's going to rain. You'd better take an umbrella.

**b** This road takes you to the airport.

**h** I'm going to give you some advice and I suggest that you take it.

# take

**c** Change the music please. I can't take any more German techno.

**g** If you take two from seven you get five.

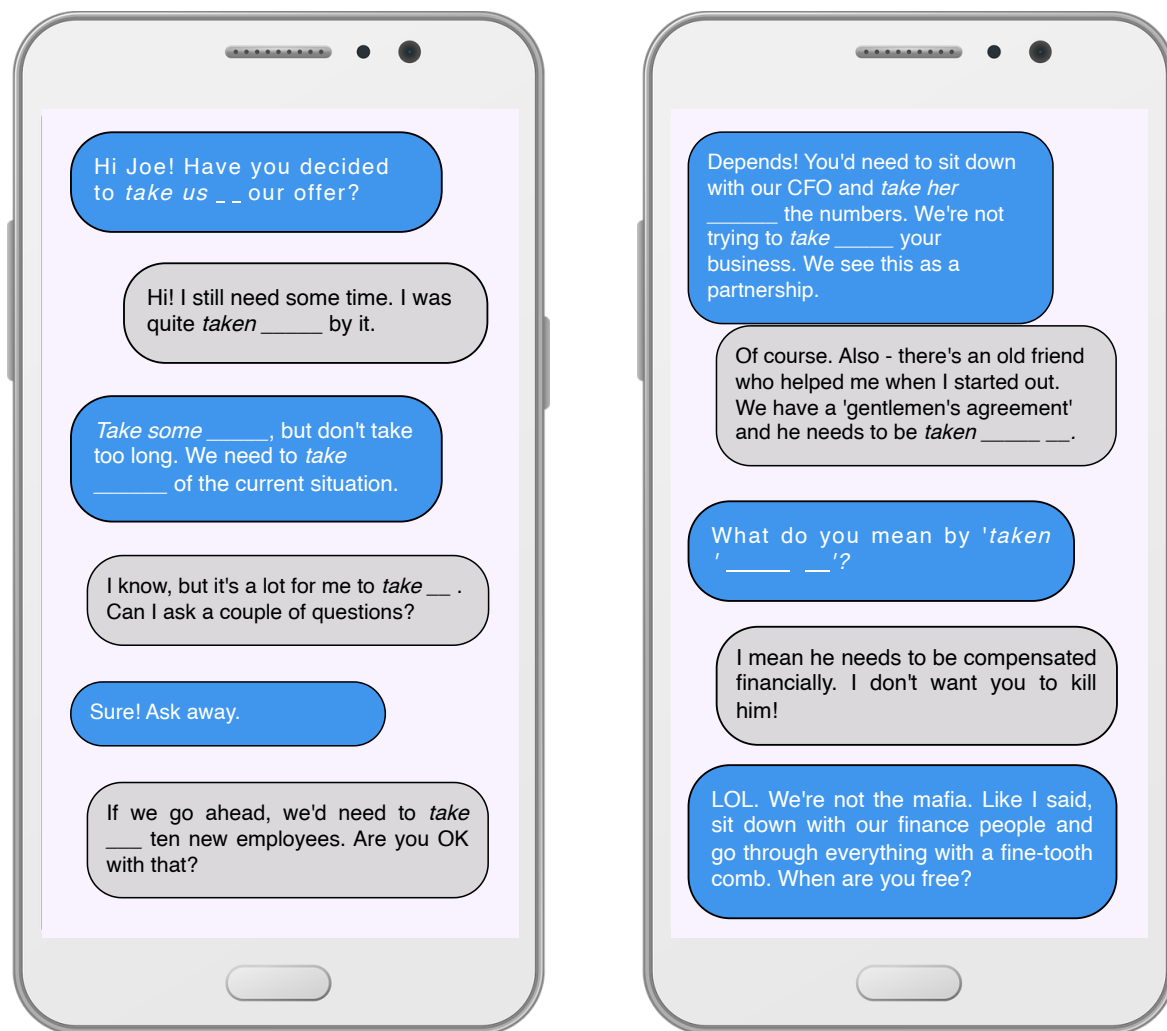
**d** Will everyone please take their seats, we're about to start.

**f** What's your take on what the Prime Minister said?

**e** They're both nice but I prefer the black ones, so I'll take them.

2

- A** Read the following text conversation.  
Fill in the gaps to form a phrasal verb or expression with 'take'.

**B**

Watch the clip and check your answers to part A.

in  
down

in  
after

in  
to

up  
on

up  
over

up / (someone) up on (something  
through

Complete the table below to make the appropriate phrasal verb using the words in the box above.

meaning	phrasal verb
1. to accept an offer	take
2. start doing a new activity or pastime	take
3. to like someone or something	take
4. to absorb or comprehend	take
5. to employ new members of staff	take
6. to explain something to someone	take
7. to assume control of a business, company or organisation	take
8. to resemble a family member, physically or in character	take
9. to fill time or space	take
10. to remove something from the wall (such as decorations)	take
11. to deceive someone	take
12. to give space in your home to a person or animal	take

## 4

**Discuss the following questions in pairs or small groups.**

- Which one of your parents do you **take after**? In what ways?
- When you started your current job did you **take to** it straightaway or did it take a while to grow into it? What about your work colleagues? How long was it before you **took to** them?
- If someone were to offer you more than three times the market value for something that you owned but loved, would you **take up** the offer? Why / why not?
- If a rival company were to open an office in the same town where you work and announced that they were **taking on** staff at your position and above, would you apply? Why / why not?
- How long do you usually wait after Christmas before **taking down** the tree and decorations?
- If you are at a meeting and there is too much information to **take in** would you **take** notes?
- Have you or anyone you know ever been **taken in** by an online scam? How easy is it to be **taken in** online?
- Would you **take in** an injured or homeless animal if you came across one?
- What activities **take up** most of your time at work?
- When was the last time you **took up** a new hobby or pastime? Are there any activities you would like to **take up** if you had the chance?
- If the company or organisation that you work for were to be **taken over** by a rival, how worried would you be about your job?
- In your current or previous jobs do you ever, or have you ever had to, **take people through** a process or a project that is outside of their scope or knowledge (e.g. – an engineer has to take a non-engineer through a complex project)? Is this an easy or a difficult thing to do? Why?

## 5

### Common expression with 'take'

**Match the expressions on the left with the alternative way of saying the same thing on the right.**

#### A

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. take care of                        | a. be encouraged by something, have your confidence boosted                        |
| 2. taken aback                         | b. assume something is true without checking                                       |
| 3. take someone to the cleaners        | c. to take something personally or seriously because it upsets you and affects you |
| 4. take something the wrong way        | d. to trick or cheat someone   |
| 5. take something to heart             | e. to care for, to deal with a problem or situation, or, as a euphemism, to kill   |
| 6. take someone for a ride             | f. to take all of someone's money or possessions in a dishonest way                |
| 7. take heart from something           | g. to be surprised and shocked by something  |
| 8. take something as read              | h. to misunderstand someone's words or intentions and get offended                 |
| 9. take something with a pinch of salt | i. don't believe a claim because it's probably exaggerated or untrue               |

#### B

**Complete the sentences below by filling the gaps with one of the expressions from part A. Make any changes you think are necessary.**

- A. Don't \_\_\_ her comments \_\_\_\_\_. She always speaks without thinking and she rarely means what she says.
- B. I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ that her French is pretty good because she spent three years studying in Paris.
- C. I know you didn't win, but you came very close. You should \_\_\_\_\_ from the fact that you showed how well you can play.
- D. While I'm away there are a few things that I need you to \_\_\_\_\_. I'll leave you a list of things that need to be done.
- E. It's awful. She thought that he was the one, but instead he emptied her bank account and left. He absolutely \_\_\_\_\_.
- F. I asked him if he wanted to have some cooking lessons and he completely \_\_\_\_\_. Now he's not talking to me.
- G. If I were you I'd \_\_\_\_\_ everything he says \_\_\_\_\_. He's a notorious liar.
- H. You need to be very careful with builders. There are a lot of cowboys out there who will \_\_\_\_\_ given half a chance.
- I. I don't think he's used to people being so direct with him. When I gave him my opinion he seemed to be \_\_\_\_\_.

6

Work with a partner or in groups of three. Take turns to ask and answer the questions below.

Which professions or trades have a reputation for **taking their customers for a ride**? Are these reputations justified? Why / why not?

When was the last time you were **taken aback** by something? Has someone else been **taken aback** by something you said or did?

How can people avoid being **taken to the cleaners** by con artists? What would be a suitable punishment for criminals who **take vulnerable people to the cleaners**?

How would you react if a friend told you not to **take someone's hurtful comments to heart**? Is this useful advice or not? Why?

If you were on holiday and something arose at work that needed to be **taken care of**, would you deal with it yourself, ask a colleague to do it, or wait till you returned to work? Why?

When politicians speak, do you **take it as read** that they are being deceitful? Why / why not?

Can you recall a time when something you said was **taken the wrong way** by someone? What happened and how did you resolve the misunderstanding?

If you were going through a difficult time at work, would you be more likely to **take heart** from some praise and positive feedback or from a financial bonus? Why?

Can you think of anyone whose statements should always be **taken with a pinch of salt**? Why would you assume they were exaggerating or lying?