

THE 05 MAIN MEANINGS OF THE VERB TAKE

Conjugation: TAKE - TOOK - TAKEN

TAKE can have many meanings depending on the context! Let's learn about the five MAIN meanings.

1. - Bob, can you TAKE the kids to school?

(present with modal verb "can")

- The taxi will TAKE you anywhere if you pay the driver.

(future will)

- Julia TOOK her dogs for a walk last week.

(simple past)

- We've TAKEN the packages, so don't worry.

(present perfect)

- Your sister is going to TAKE the cake to the party, right?

(future be going to)

- Had you TAKEN grandma to the doctor when I called?

(past perfect)

As you might have guessed, in these examples the verb "take" means "levar"!

2. - Here, TAKE this laptop. The other one is broken.

(imperative)

- Had Mom TAKEN the medicine when we arrived?

(past perfect)

- Karina is TAKING a shower now.

(present continuous)

- It's like TAKING candy from a baby!

(simple present)

- Did Pierre TAKE a drink from this?

(simple past)

The meaning of "take" in these sentences is "tomar"!

IMPORTANT NOTE: We don't use "take" to express "tomar um líquido"; in this case, we use "drink" or "have."

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Examples:

- I drink/have coffee every day.
- Would you like to drink/have a lemonade?

When someone asks, "How do you TAKE your coffee?", they want to know how you like your coffee - with sugar, without sugar, with milk or without milk, etc.

- How do you take your tea?
- With a little sugar. Thank you.

3. - Can I TAKE a cup from here?
(present with modal verb "can")

- Hey, you TOOK my pillow! This one is yours!
(simple past)

- I hate TAKING the bus. I prefer TO TAKE the subway.
(simple present)

- Joe had TAKEN the documents before the meeting. That's why we couldn't find them.
(past perfect)

- Has Cindy TAKEN the bus before?
(present perfect)

- Why would someone TAKE my keys?
(conditional with the modal verb "would")

The meaning of "take" in these sentences is "pegar."

4. - I'm not going to TAKE this insult!
(future - be going to)

- Do you TAKE this man as your husband?
(simple present)

- George TOOK the job offer, and he's very happy.
(simple past)

- They TAKE cash, check, or credit card at that restaurant.
(simple present)

- Jim hasn't been TAKING our offers. I think we should move on.
(present perfect continuous)

- Caitlin says that she didn't TAKE the money.
(simple past)

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In these sentences, the meaning of “take” is “aceitar”.

5. - Let's TAKE piano lessons together, it'll be fun!
(present)

- I hate TAKING tests. They're so boring.
(simple present)

- Should I TAKE a Spanish course or a French course?
(present with modal verb “should”)

- Carol has decided to TAKE a class about marketing strategies.
(present perfect)

- Joseph was sick, so he couldn't TAKE the exam last week.
(simple past)

- Hey, are you TAKING the TOEFL exam this year?
(future present continuous)

In these sentences, TAKE means “fazer (aulas, lições, provas, testes, cursos, exames acadêmicos)”

BONUS:

1 – Expressions with “TAKE”

Take a look = Dar uma olhada

- I heard a noise outside! Can you take a look and see what it is?
- I took a look at your text, and I have some comments about it.
- I have lots of things for sale. Take a look!

Take a seat. = Sentar-se

- Please, take a seat over there.
- I'll just take a seat on the sofa.
- Henry took a seat next to his wife.

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Take a right/left = Vire a direita, esquerda.

- Should I take a right or a left after the park?
- We took a right on the highway, but we missed the exit.
- Yes, you can take a left here.

Take a bath/shower = Tomar um banho de banheira/chuveiro

- Can I take a shower before we leave?
- Taking a bath is a great way to relax.
- I was taking a shower when you called.

2 - "TAKE" in phrasal verbs

Take off = remover ou deslancar/decolar

- When does the plane take off?
- I don't want to take my gloves off, it's cold.

Take on = assumir a responsabilidade de algo ou alguém

- Patty doesn't want to take on more clients because she's too busy.
- Please, Luisa, don't take on any more responsibilities.
- Carlos is taking on two more classes.

Take over = dominar

- The villain is trying to take over the world! We must stop him!
- Stray cats have taken over that empty lot. There so many of them!

Take up = começar a fazer algo novo

- How about we take up a new hobby? I've always wanted to try painting.
- Julian was going to take up kayaking, but he gave up because he didn't have time.
- Megan said she took up bird watching after she moved to the mountains.