

Phrasal verbs with take: off, up, after and over

CEFR B1 • 20 questions • A4 / US Letter

The particle decides whether take means removing clothes, leaving the ground, starting a hobby, resembling a parent or gaining control.

The rule

Take off: clothes, planes and success

- Take off means remove clothes or shoes: "Take off your coat."
- A plane takes off when it leaves the ground.
- A product, a joke or an idea takes off when it becomes successful.
- Take off is separable with clothes: "take your coat off" or "take off your coat".

Take up and take after

- Take up means start a hobby or activity: "She took up running."
- Take up also means occupy space or time: "The sofa takes up half the room."
- Take after means resemble a family member: "He takes after his father."
- Take after is never separated, and it takes no to: not "take after to".

Take over, take out and take back

- Take over means gain control of something: "A new manager took over the team."
- Take out means remove something or invite someone: "Take out the rubbish."
- Take back means retract a statement or return an item: "I take back what I said."
- Take out and take back are separable: "take it out", "take it back".

Take care of and take part in

- Take care of means look after someone or deal with something.
- Take part in means participate in an activity: "She took part in the race."
- These are fixed three-word phrases, so keep the words together.
- Never say "take part of" or "take care for".

Separable or not?

- Separable: take off, take out, take back and take up.
- Not separable: take after, take part in and take care of.
- A pronoun goes in the middle of separable phrases: "take it off", never "take off it".
- With a full noun, both orders are possible: "take off your shoes" or "take your shoes off".

Questions

Write your answer on the line under each question. Check your work with the answer key on the last page.

1. The plane ___ at six in the morning.

2. She ___ her coat and sat down.

3. I want to ___ photography this year.

4. He ___ his father; they share the same laugh.

5. Who will ___ the company when the boss retires?

6. Please ___ the rubbish before you leave.

7. Did you ___ part in the school play?

8. That sofa ___ too much space.

9. I ___ what I said; it was unkind.

10. He ___ his shoes and left them by the door.

11. Can you ___ the children tonight?

12. The flight was cancelled, so the plane did not ___.

13. She ___ golf when she moved to the countryside.

14. My brother ___ our mother in every way.

15. A new manager ___ the department next month.

16. ___ your notebook and start writing.

17. We ___ in the school play last year.

18. Learning Chinese ___ a lot of time.

19. My grandparents ___ us out to dinner every Sunday.

20. The dress was too small, so I ___ it back to the shop.

Answer key

Phrasal verbs with take: off, up, after and over · CEFR B1

1. **takes off** — Take off is the phrasal verb for a plane leaving the ground.
2. **took off** — Take off means remove clothing, so she removed her coat.
3. **take up** — Take up means start a new hobby or activity, here photography.
4. **takes after** — Take after means resemble a family member.
5. **take over** — Take over means gain control, so it fits taking charge of the company.
6. **take out** — Take out means remove something, here the rubbish.
7. **take** — Take part in is the fixed phrasal verb for joining an activity.
8. **takes up** — Take up means occupy space or time, so the sofa uses the space.
9. **take back** — Take back means retract a statement, so the speaker withdraws the words.
10. **took off** — Take off means remove clothing or shoes, and took is the past form.
11. **take care of** — Take care of means look after someone, so it fits caring for the children.
12. **take off** — Take off describes a plane leaving the ground.
13. **took up** — Take up means start an activity, here golf.
14. **takes after** — Take after means resemble a family member.
15. **takes over** — Take over means gain control, so the new manager takes charge.
16. **Take out** — Take out means remove something from a place, here the notebook.
17. **took part** — Take part in is the phrasal verb for participating in an activity.
18. **takes up** — Take up means occupy time, so learning the language uses the time.
19. **take** — Take out can mean invite someone out, and the plural subject takes the base form take.
20. **took** — Take back means return an item, and took is the past form.