

take sb↔'back to allow sb, such as your husband, wife or partner, to come home after they have left because of a problem **take sb 'back (to ...)** to make sb remember sth: *The smell of the sea took him back to his childhood.* **take sth↔'back** **1** if you **take sth back** to a shop/store, or a shop/store **takes sth back**, you return sth that you have bought there, for example because it is the wrong size or does not work **2** to admit that sth you said was wrong or that you should not have said it: *OK, I take it all back!*

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 7th edition

Phrasal verbs with take

- 1** Read the dictionary entry for *take back* and match each sentence with one of the meanings.
 - a This dress is too big. I'll have to take it back.
 - b I don't know why she's agreed to take him back after he walked out on her like that.
 - c He accused me of lying, but he later took it back and apologised.
 - d That song takes me back to my time at college.

tip

Phrasal verbs often have more than one meaning. Use the context to help you, then check your ideas in a dictionary.



2 Complete each pair of sentences with one of these words to form phrasal verbs.

apart in off on up

- a I tried to listen as he gave me the bad news, but I couldn't take what he was saying.
He lost a lot of money when he was taken by an email claiming to be from a charity.
- b We collapsed in laughter when Fred took the headmaster.
Mobile phones really took in the 1990s.
- c The company has relocated to New York and taken 20 new staff.
Jeff has taken far too much work this year and has almost no free time.
- d We'll have to take the wardrobe before we try to move it downstairs.
Italy took France in the football final, beating them 4-0.
- e Ian plays the piano beautifully, but he didn't take it until he was in his forties.
The sleeves on this jacket are too long. Can you take them for me?

3 Match these verbs and phrases with the meanings of the phrasal verbs in 2.

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|---------------------|-------------------------|
| a agree to do | f employ |
| b become successful | g understand |
| c deceive | h pretend to be someone |
| d take to pieces | i shorten |
| e easily beat | j start |