

**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!*

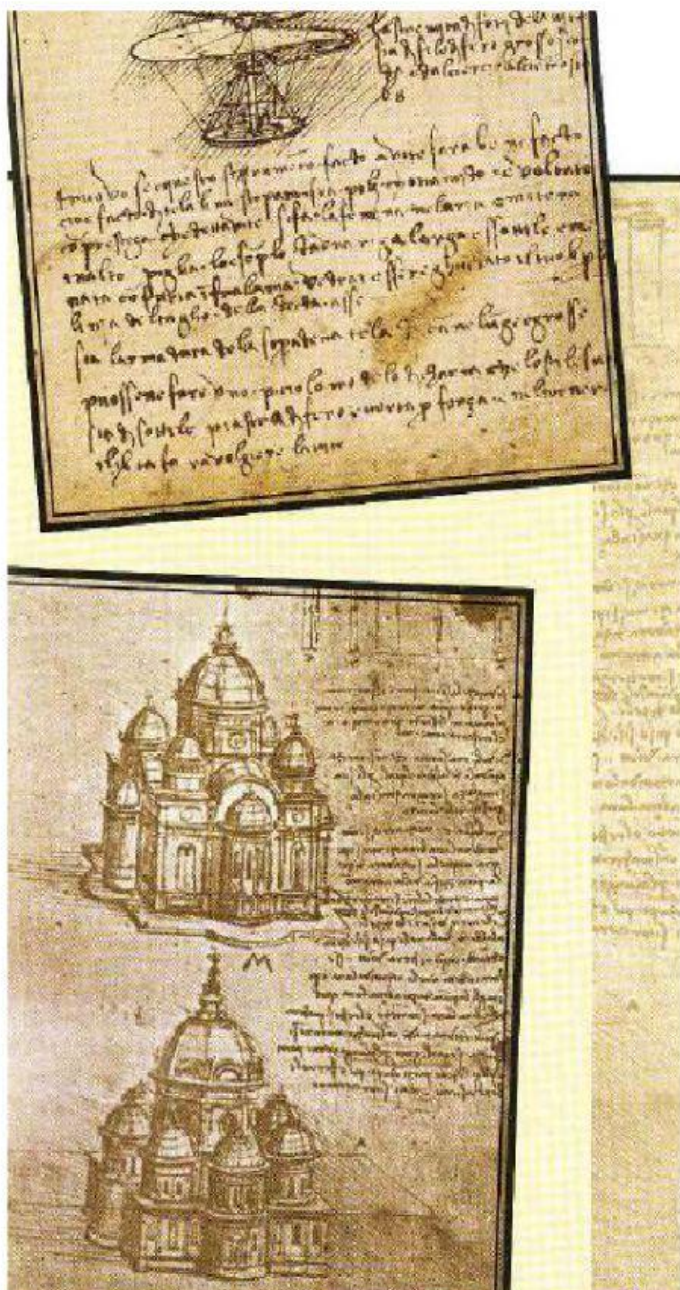
Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 7th edition

## 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.

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 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                 |