



Take vs Get (includes examples and exercises)

When you're at the office, **do you take a message or do you get a message?** It depends. They're both correct but mean completely different things. The use of *take* and *get* is confusing for many English learners, and our goal here is to clarify the difference between these two common verbs and offer some activities to make sure you fully understand and don't forget.

What is the difference between *take* and *get*?

Take or Get?

Take

1. To actively grab something (usually using your hands) maybe for your own use

- Take my business card and call me if you have any questions.
- If you want more information, please take a leaflet.
- I always prefer to take a shower in the morning.
- If the headache doesn't get any better, take this pill.
- Take an umbrella, it's rainy season here.

2. To obtain something with or without permission

- I took a few candies from that stand.
- That man took my car while I was at the convention.

3. To change the location of something or someone (similar to 'carry')

- Take these copies to the meeting room, please.
- I need to take my daughter to school.
- When you come to New York for the convention, I'll take you to a nice restaurant for lunch.

Get

1. To receive something from another person

- She's so happy because she got a raise.
- I got a great score in the test.
- What did you get for your anniversary?
- I left my phone at the counter and now it's in Lost and Found, so I have to go get it.

2. To buy or acquire

- Where can I get a suit for the event?
- We need to get a new projector for the conference room.

3. To change state + adjective (similar to 'become')

Examples: *get dark, get angry, get old, get hungry, get tired...*

- If it gets dark, we'll take a taxi.
- I used to like networking events more before, I must be getting old.

4. To understand

- I explained the new policies to the marketing manager, but honestly I don't think he gets it.
- Oh, I get it now! I totally understand what you mean.

Expressions with TAKE and GET

Expressions with *take*

Everyday collocations with take:

- Take a lesson
- Take the bus
- Take a photo
- Take a break/rest
- Take place
- Take a look
- Take someone/something for granted

More advanced expressions with take:

- Take a decision (also to make a decision)
- Take advantage of
- Take something into account
- Take part in
- Take something seriously
- Take a seat
- Take time off
- Take your time
- Take it easy (to be calm)
- Take care
- Take somebody to court
- Take a call/message
- Take a risk
- Take over (to gain control)
- Take someone on (to engage an employee)
- Take a stab at (to attempt something)
- Whatever it takes (anything necessary to achieve a goal)
- Take it or leave it (the offer is not negotiable)
- Take the plunge and... (make a decision and...)
- I take it that... (I assume that...)

Expressions with *get*

Everyday collocations with get:

- Get home
- Get married
- Get changed (to change your clothes)
- Get lost
- Get the phone (to answer the phone)
- Get a message (to receive a message)
- Get some sleep
- Get a ride (to have someone drive you somewhere)
- Get a cold
- Get carried away (to lose self-control)
- Get in touch (to communicate with someone)
- Get a ticket (to receive a notice of a fine that you must pay)

More advanced expressions with get:

- As good as it gets (nothing better is possible)
- Get down to business (to start working)
- Get the ball rolling (to start something)
- Get off the ground (to start happening successfully)
- Get ahead (to be successful in your career or life)
- Get through to someone (to successfully contact someone on the phone)



Talaera

Business English Training

Exercises

A. Complete the sentences with *take* or *get* in the correct tense.

1. If you want more information, please __ my business card and write me.
2. They didn't offer me a brochure, I had to __ it myself.
3. Where did you __ all those leads from?
4. I'm __ English lessons with Talaera, have you heard of them?
5. What score did you __ in the technical test?
6. __ a raise shouldn't be so complicated!
7. Did you __ through to Sandra? I've tried calling her a few times without any success.
8. I love conferences! People always give you swags... Today I __ so many things!
9. I don't know if anyone __ my keys, but I can't find them anywhere.
10. Could you please __ this dossier to Mrs. Hartford?
11. I should __ a suit for the event, I don't have one yet.
12. I've read the text a million times, and still don't __ it.
13. Where are you going to __ me when I visit you in Tel Aviv?
14. It's a bit cloudy, should I __ my umbrella?
15. __ risks is sometimes the most sensible idea.
16. Tooga __ over our startup 3 years ago.
17. I'm sorry, I can't offer you anything else. You __ it or you leave it.
18. I __ that you're interested in our program?
19. The course is as good as it __.
20. We don't have so much time, so let's __ the ball rolling.

B. Finish the sentences with two words so that they make sense

1. If you have any questions, please get ___ with us and we'll be happy to answer.
2. I really like Sally, she did great in the test. I think we should take ___.
3. How did you get back home? In the end I had to get ___ from one of my coworkers.
4. Mr. Alvarez will be here in 15 minutes. In the meantime, please take ___.
5. It's not an easy decision, but I'll take ___ and quit my job.
6. We're not in a rush, we can take ___ with this event.
7. Would you like to take ___ at managing this new project?
8. The meetup will take ___ the canteen.
9. All she wants is to get ___ her career.
10. Someone's calling - would you please get ___ while I finish writing this email?

Solutions

A. Complete the sentences with *take* or *get* in the correct tense.

1. If you want more information, please **take** my business card and write me.
2. They didn't offer me a brochure, I had to **take** it myself.
3. Where did you **get** all those leads from?
4. I'm **taking** English lessons with Talaera, have you heard of them?
5. What score did you **get** in the technical test?
6. **Getting** a raise shouldn't be so complicated!
7. Did you **get** through to Sandra? I've tried calling her a few times without any success.
8. I love conferences! People always give you swags... Today I **got** so many things!
9. I don't know if anyone **took** my keys, but I can't find them anywhere.
10. Could you please **take** this dossier to Mrs. Hartford?
11. I should **get** a suit for the event, I don't have one yet.
12. I've read the text a million times, and still don't **get** it.
13. Where are you going to **take** me when I visit you in Tel Aviv?
14. It's a bit cloudy, should I **take** my umbrella?
15. **Taking** risks is sometimes the most sensible idea.
16. Tooga **took** over our startup 3 years ago.
17. I'm sorry, I can't offer you anything else. You **take** it or you leave it.
18. I **take** that you're interested in our program?
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B. Finish the sentences with two words so that they make sense

1. If you have any questions, please get **in touch** with us and we'll be happy to answer.
2. I really like Sally, she did great in the test. I think we should take **her on**.
3. How did you get back home? In the end I had to get **a ride** from one of my coworkers.
4. Mr. Alvarez will be here in 15 minutes. In the meantime, please take **a seat**.
5. It's not an easy decision, but I'll take **the plunge** and quit my job.
6. We're not in a rush, we can take **it easy** with this event.
7. Would you like to take **a stab** at managing this new project?
8. The meetup will take **place at** the canteen.
9. All she wants is to get **ahead in** her career.
10. Someone's calling - would you please get **the phone** while I finish writing this email?

**Would you like to practice with a teacher?
Get in touch with Talaera!**