

LIST OF IDIOMS WITH THE VERB TAKE

idiom	meaning	example
it takes two to tango	some activities you can't do alone and both parties are responsible	I blamed my personal trainer for tempting me into cheating, but it takes two to tango.
let nature take its course	allow events to develop naturally, don't interfere	I've bandaged the baby owl's leg, now I have to let nature take its course.
take a leaf out of someone's book	copy, follow someone's example as it will be to your advantage	You should take a leaf out of Reece's book and study. He got 98% in the last exam
take a pounding	suffer a lot of damage	My city took a pounding during the war, you can still see the damage now.
take a rain check	a nice way of refusing an invitation on this particular occasion	Can I take a rain check on drinks after work? I've had a really tough day.
take a shine to	like a lot	I really took a shine to the cat we found, but then it's owner came forward.
take a turn for the worse	one's illness becomes more serious	My dog took a turn for the worse and sadly passed away.
take each day as it comes	don't worry about the future, deal with things as they happen	We're working through our marriage problems and taking each day as it comes.
take five	have a short break	Take five, have a drink, go to the toilet and be back in here ready to start chapter 12.
take it easy	relax and don't do much	I took It easy at the weekend, I've got a few busy weeks coming up.
take one's hat off to someone	salute/congratulate/honour someone	I can't believe you travel the world alone, I take my hat off to you.
take one's time	not hurry, use as much time as you need	It's a 150 mile drive so we'll take our time and stop a few times.
take shape	start to develop, become clear/defined	My business plan is taking shape, I've found my niche.
take sides	give support to one person/group in a dispute	My kids took sides with their mother, now they don't want to see me.
take someone for a ride	trick/cheat/deceive someone	He left me as soon as his visa came through. He really took me for a ride.
take someone to the cleaners	unfairly take all someone's money/property/possessions	Gordon won the poker night. He took everyone to the cleaners.
take something by storm	become popular/successful very quickly	A new technique for plucking eyebrows is taking the beauty world by storm.
take something on the chin	accept that something bad has happened and don't complain about it	Johnny wasn't picked for the team, He took it on the chin and is going to train harder.
take something to heart	be deeply affected/hurt by criticism	I called him an idiot and he took it to heart, we're not speaking.
take something with a pinch of salt	something may not be completely accurate	Penny exaggerates, take what she says with a pinch of salt.

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take the biscuit	emphasise your surprise at something bad/annoying/stupid etc.	The train is usually a bit late, but an hour late really takes the biscuit.
take the bull by the horns	confront a problem head on, be brave and direct	I've had enough of his bad attitude, I'll take the bull by the horns and fire him.
take the piss out of someone	mock/laugh at/make a joke about someone	My brother keeps taking the piss out of me because I let in 8 goals.
take the reins	take control/manage something	I took the reins at the meeting and bagged a new contract. My boss will be pleased.
take the wind out of someone's sails	make someone less confident	Lever has hit five aces in a row, he's taken the wind out of Jackson's sails.
take to something like a duck to water	have a natural ability	Hayley has taken to motherhood like a duck to water. She is a natural.

