

Past Tense of Take: Took and Taken

Take is an irregular verb. Use took for a finished action in the past. Use taken after have or has, as in she has taken the bus.

Base	take
Past	took
Past participle	taken
3rd person / -ing	takes / taking

Examples

I take the bus to work. — A daily routine in the present uses take.

Please take a coat with you. — A polite instruction uses the base form.

She took a photo of the cat. — Took is the past form; it needs no helper.

We took a long walk after dinner. — One finished event in the past uses took.

I have taken the dog to the vet. — Have plus taken links the past to now.

Who has taken my pen? — In a question, taken still follows has.

Notes

Many common phrases English uses take in many fixed phrases: take a bus, take a photo, take a shower, take a break and take a test. Learn them as small groups.

Take or bring? Take moves something away from the speaker, and bring moves it toward the speaker. Take your bag to school, but bring your book to me.

It takes time Use it takes to talk about how long something lasts: It takes ten minutes to walk to the park.

Common mistakes

I have took the bus. → I have taken the bus. — After have, use the past participle taken, not took.

She taked a photo. → She took a photo. — Take is irregular, so the past is took, not taked.

He taken my book yesterday. → He took my book yesterday. — Taken needs have or has. For a finished past time, use took.

Exercises

Choose the right form

1. Yesterday I ___ a shower before school. (take / taken / took)
2. Who has ___ my seat? (took / taken / taked)
3. I ___ the train to work every day. (take / took / taken)
4. Last summer we ___ a lot of photos. (taken / take / took)

Write the missing form

1. He ___ his sister to school this morning.

2. She has ___ her bag.
3. How long does it ___ to get there?

Correct the mistake

1. My brother has took my bike.

Answer key

Choose the right form

1. took — Yesterday is finished, so use the past form took.
2. taken — After has, use the past participle taken.
3. take — Every day describes a present routine: I take.
4. took — Last summer is finished, so use took.

Write the missing form

1. took — This morning is finished, so use took.
2. taken — Has plus the participle is has taken.
3. take — After does, use the base form take.

Correct the mistake

1. taken — After has, use taken, not took.

<https://www.fluencyroad.com/irregular-verbs/take>