

Verb patterns with take

We can use take to say how much time we need to do something. Different structures are possible.

Person + take + time expression + infinitive

This structure is used when the person is the subject.

He takes hours to get dressed.

I took two months to finish the work.

She takes all day to get out of the bathroom.

We took three hours to put the child to bed.

He takes so long to answer questions.

The activity + take + person + time expression

This structure is used when the activity is the subject.

Learning a language takes a lot of time.

The journey took me three hours.

Finishing the work took me two months.

Object of activity + take + person + infinitive

This structure is used when the object of the activity is the subject.

The roof took all week to repair.

The ferry took them two hours to unload.

The book took two years to write.

Preparatory it is the subject

It + take + person + time + infinitive

It took me three months to finish the work.

It takes several months to learn a new language.

It takes me just two minutes to get dressed.

It took them two hours to unload the ferry.