87 take somebody in

Study  Read these sentences carefully.

- It was a huge international fraud that took in a lot of people.
- He’s such a good liar — he takes everyone in.
- She took me in completely with her story. I believed every word.
- How could I have been taken in by his charm?

Check  Use the sentences in the Study box to help you do these exercises.

 Meaning
Which of the following best explains this meaning of take somebody in?

a to deceive somebody
b to accept somebody
c to include somebody

 Grammar
There is a grammatical mistake in two of these sentences. Find them and correct them.

a He didn’t take in you, did he?
b You won’t take anyone in with that story!
c He took me completely — I really believed him!
d Helen was completely taken in.

→ Now check your answers in the key.

Practise

1 Choose the correct form of take in to complete these sentences.

a He can’t be trusted — don’t let him __________ you __________.

b My father warned me not to be __________ by dishonest salesmen.

c He’s such a good actor he __________ me __________ completely.

d Inexperienced magistrates are sometimes __________ by clever criminals.

2 Rewrite the following sentences so that the meaning stays the same, using the verb take somebody in.

a He deceived us completely with his story about his father being ill.

He __________

b She told us her purse had been stolen, making us all believe her.

She __________

c I was surprised at how easy it was to deceive her.

I was surprised __________

→ Now check your answers in the key.

Build your vocabulary

 Synonyms  Deceive somebody is more formal:

She completely deceived me with her story.

 Other meanings  Take somebody in has several other meanings, for example: ‘to allow somebody to stay in your home’ or ‘to accept somebody as a member, student, patient, etc.’:

When my parents died my uncle took me in.
The college took in more students than ever last year.

 Similar verbs  → FALL FOR SOMETHING