Expressions with care

Take care of

Take care of means ‘look after’.

- Who **takes care of** sick people?
- If I give you a rabbit, will you be able to **take care of** it properly?

When used without a preposition, **take care** means ‘careful’.

- **Take care** when you are crossing the road.

Care about

When you care about something, you feel it is important or it interests or worries you.

- I don’t **care about** your opinion. (= I don’t think that your opinion is important.)

If there is no object, we do not use about.

- ‘I don’t want to meet you again.’ ‘I **don’t care.**’ (NOT I don’t care about.)

About is also left out before a conjunction.

- I don’t **care** whether you like it or not. (NOT I don’t care about whether you like it or not.)

Couldn’t care less means ‘don’t care at all’.

- ‘She is very upset with you.’ ‘I **couldn’t care less**.’ (= I don’t care at all.)

Care for

In a formal or literary style, **care for** can be used to mean ‘look after’.

- He spent years **caring for** his sick mother.

Care for can also mean ‘like’.

- He really **cares for** his siblings. (= He is really fond of his siblings.)
- I don’t much **care for** fish. (= I don’t like fish.)

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