

Can you take a hint?

14 de diciembre de 2022



“Hint” is a noun and a verb. To hint at something to a mortal is to give someone a clue (pista) or tip, or to “make an allusion to” (dar a entender) something. Please mull over (mull over = reflexionar sobre) the following.

- Why cannot you take a hint (¿por qué no puedes entender una indirecta?)?
- A hint (un consejo): improve your use of idioms.
- Do you get the hint?

If something has a “hint of...” it means there is a small amount. Consider these:

- There was not a hint of sugar (ni una pizca de azúcar en...) in the organic chocolate.
- The pasta sauce has a hint of basil (...un toque de albahaca).

Now, as a verb.

- Mr. Sanchez, the Spanish Prime Minister, has hinted at the possibility (...ha dado a entender...) of an election in January.
- Mr. Podemos yesterday hinted (...ayer dio a entender...) that he wanted to return to politics.

So, perhaps you drop a hint to somebody sometimes, take a hint, and notice a hint of a herb or a flavour in a dish.