Care as a verb and a noun

The word care is often confused. It is used both as a verb and as a noun and has a meaning similar to concern. Care is also used in some common phrasal verbs. Study the following examples carefully.

Care as a verb

To care is to take an interest in something, to feel concerned about something or to have feelings about something.

We don't care what happens.
The verb care is most common in questions and negative sentences. If there is an object we use care about. Note that about is usually dropped before a conjunction.

He doesn't care about his health. (NOT He doesn't care his health.)
About is dropped before a conjunction.

I don't care whether she likes it or not. (NOT I don't care about whether she likes it or not.)

Care as a noun

As a noun care means worry or anxiety. It has a plural form – cares.

He doesn't have many cares.
The care of my children is my first priority.

Take care of

Take care of means 'look after'.

She doesn't take good care of her children.
Who takes care of sick people?
You need to take care of your health if you want to live longer.
When used without a preposition take care means 'be careful'.

Take care while crossing the road.

Care for

Care for can mean look after. It is mainly used in formal or literary writing. Care for can also mean have a liking for.

Care as a verb and a noun

Do you care for classical music?

I don't care for cricket.