

Do or Make?

- "make" and "do" : These are two of the most common verbs in the English language and probably two of the most easily confused.
- They are sometimes translated as the same (do/make)
- But Although they both imply activity, they function differently in sentences.
- **do** relates to physical tasks and activities that are vague or indefinite; focuses on the process of acting or doing something,
- **make** is more specific. It focuses more on the creation of something, the final product, or result of an action:
- Ex. Using both in a sentence: When I was doing the calculations, I made a mistake.

(action)

(outcome/result)

- These are standard collocations –word combination or phrases that are used together (verb/noun combinations) that are used in English.

Do + Noun Make + Noun

- **General, Good or Bad Actions:**
- **do anything / something / everything / nothing**
Are you doing anything special for your birthday?
You can't do everything by yourself – let me help you.
- **do well**
I think I did pretty well on my exam.
- **do badly**
Everyone else did badly on the test
- **do good**
The non-profit organization has done a lot of good in the community.

- **do the right thing**
When I found someone's wallet on the sidewalk, I turned it in to the police because I wanted to do the right thing.
- **do your best**
Don't worry about getting everything perfect – just do your best.
- Housework and repetitive tasks:
 - do some shopping/ **It's time to do some shopping.**
 - do chores/housework/ **I'm doing housework and chores today.** (chores: work in and around the house)
 - do the laundry: **I'm doing laundry today.**
 - do the dishes: ***I do the dishes every night.***
 - do the ironing: ***Lee is doing the ironing right now.***
 - do housework: ***She does the housework at the weekends.***
- **BUT—**We do not say 'do your bed'. We say: **make your bed: *I make my bed every morning.***
- Exercise, hobbies, and self-care:
 - do yoga
 - do exercise: **I have to do my workout.**
 - do your hair: **I have to do my hair.**
 - do your nails: **I will do my nails.**
 - do your makeup: **I will do my makeup**

- Study and Work:

- I have to do work now.
- I'm ready to do business
- I already did my homework.
- Now, I have to do another assignment.
- I have to do a project.

- Make

- **To make** is more specific: it focuses on the creation of something, an activity that ends with a new product or outcome.

- The past tense is irregular: *made*

- (Make) Food:

- **FOOD**

- make breakfast/lunch/dinner
I'm making dinner.
- make a sandwich
Could you make me a turkey sandwich?
- make coffee
- make a salad
I made a salad for the family picnic.
- make a cup of tea
Would you like me to make you a cup of tea?

- Money:
 - **make money:**
I really like my job, but I don't make much money.
 - I made \$500 in my garage sale.
 - **make a fortune:**
He made a fortune when he sold his company.
 - **make a profit:**
We made a profit of \$2,000 last year.

- Plans and Progress:
 - **make plans**
We're making plans to travel next year.
 - **make an appointment**
 - **make a reservation**
 - **make a decision/choice**
 - **make a mistake**
 - **make progress**
My students are making good progress. Their spoken English is improving a lot.
 - **make an attempt / effort** (= try)
I'm making an effort to stop smoking this year.
 - **make up your mind** (= decide)
Should I buy a desktop or a laptop computer? I can't make up my mind.
 - **make a list**
 - **make sure** (= confirm)
Make sure we have enough paper in the printer.
 - **make a difference**
Getting eight hours of sleep makes a big difference in my day.
I have more energy!

- **make an exception**
Normally the teacher doesn't accept late homework, but she made an exception for me because my backpack was stolen with my homework inside it.

- Communication:
 - **make a phone call**
Please excuse me – I need to make a phone call.
 - **make a complaint**
 - **make a joke**
 - **make a point**
Dana made some good points during the meeting; I think we should consider her ideas.
 - **make a bet**
I made a bet with Peter to see who could do more push-ups.
 - **make a suggestion**
 - **make a confession**
I need to make a confession: I was the one who ate the last piece of cake.
 - **make a speech**
 - **make a prediction**
 - **make an excuse**
When I asked him if he'd finished the work, he started making excuses about how he was too busy.
 - **make a promise**
 - **make a fuss** (= demonstrate annoyance)
Stop making a fuss – he's just a few minutes late. I'm sure he'll be here soon.
 - **make an observation**
 - **make a comment**
The teacher made a few critical comments on my essay.

- **EXCEPTION:** Don't say "make a question." The correct phrase is "ask a question."

- **make a suggestion**

Can I make a suggestion? I think we need better lighting.

- Relationships:

- **make friends**

It's hard to make friends when you move to a big city.

- **make a promise**

- **make an excuse**

- **make fun of someone** (= tease / mock someone)

The other kids made fun of Jimmy when he got glasses, calling him "four eyes."

- **make up** (= resolve a problem in a relationship)

My friend and I made up after the big fight we had last week.

Keep learning these phrases:

* **Listen to English** as often as you can, TV, movies, conversation;

* **Apply these phrases** by picking one or two and using them throughout the day.

Happy Learning!