

Vocabulary Worksheet

# ***The Difference Between the Verbs “Make” and “Do”***

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## **About the Worksheet**

In this worksheet, you'll learn the difference between the verbs “Make” and “Do.” You'll find explanations, rules, and common combinations. You'll also practice what you learned with some exercises and a discussion.



## Overview of the Difference Between Make & Do

Keep this chart in a place where you can easily find it, such as on your desk or cell phone, to quickly review these rules anytime.

| <b>MAKE</b>   | <b>DO</b>  |
|---|--|
| Used to talk about something we construct or create   | Used to talk about performance or execution  |
| <b>Focus is on the result.</b>  | <b>Focus is on the action.</b>   |
| <i>I'll <b>make</b> lunch for you.</i><br><i>Can you <b>make</b> me a coffee?</i><br><i>We <b>made</b> a lot of mistakes.</i><br><i>The dog <b>made</b> a big mess.</i><br><i>My laptop is <b>making</b> a strange noise.</i><br><i>I <b>made</b> a lot of progress.</i><br><i>It <b>makes</b> a big difference.</i><br><i>Are they <b>making</b> good money?</i><br><i>They didn't <b>make</b> a good offer.</i> | <i>She <b>does</b> a lot of sports.</i><br><i>Do you <b>do</b> yoga?</i><br><i>I need to <b>do</b> some shopping later.</i><br><i>Don't <b>do</b> business with them.</i><br><i>They <b>did</b> a good job.</i><br><i>You <b>did</b> your best.</i><br><i>I <b>did</b> him a favor.</i><br><i>Are you <b>doing</b> anything tonight?</i><br><i>Let's <b>do</b> something this weekend.</i> |



## How to Use the Verb “Make”

We use ‘make’ when we’re talking about **creating** or **producing** something. So, we can say:

- I **made** a cake for you.
- I ~~did~~ a cake for you.
- Chile makes excellent wine.
- He made me breakfast this morning.

Generally, we use ‘make’ when the focus is **on the result**. For example:

- “What are you **making** for dinner?” “I’m **making** pasta.”

We’re producing a result. The result here is pasta.

### EXAMPLES

- He **makes** a big **mess** when he cooks.
- I **made** a lot of **friends** when I lived in Mexico.
- She needs to **make a decision** by the end of the day.
- I **made** a **complaint** to the manager.
- Can I **make** an **appointment**?
- We need to **make changes** to the design.
- They haven't **made** an **offer** yet.
- I already **made plans** with a friend tonight.

Do you see how ‘make’ focuses on the result of the action, not the action itself?

Notice that in all those examples, something was produced: *a mess, friends or a decision*.



## **Make - Common Combinations**

| <b>COLLOCATION</b>  | <b>EXAMPLE</b>                              |
|---------------------|---|
| make food or a meal | <i>I made food for you to take to work.</i> |
| make a drink        | <i>Do you want me to make you some tea?</i> |
| make a friend       | <i>I made a new friend today.</i>           |
| make a difference   | <i>It won't make a difference.</i>          |
| make a mess         | <i>He makes a mess whenever he cooks.</i>   |
| make a mistake      | <i>I'm sorry - I made a mistake.</i>        |
| make noise          | <i>The car is making a weird noise.</i>     |
| make money          | <i>We made good money last month.</i>       |
| make an offer       | <i>I'll make you an offer.</i>              |
| make a suggestion   | <i>Can I make a suggestion?</i>             |
| make progress       | <i>They're not making any progress.</i>     |
| make a complaint    | <i>The customer made a complaint.</i>       |



## How to Use the Verb “Do”

We use ‘do’ when we’re talking about **performing** or **executing** something. The focus is **on the action**. So we can say,

- “What are you **doing** for dinner?” “We’re **going to that new restaurant**.”
- I need to **do** some **shopping** today.
- Some days, I love **doing nothing**.”
- I **do yoga** almost every day.

In all those examples, the main focus is on the activity: *going to a restaurant*, *shopping*, *doing nothing (relaxing)*, or *doing yoga*.

Let’s look at another example. Suppose it’s your friend’s birthday, what do you think is the difference between:

- “What are you **making** for your friend’s birthday?”
- “What are you **doing** for your friend’s birthday?”

Remember, these are general guidelines. Sometimes the distinction won’t be clear, so the best way to learn how to use do and make correctly is to practice them regularly.

### EXAMPLES

- She’s still **doing** her **hair**.
- We’ll **do** a better **job** next time.
- Did you **do** the **dishes**?
- I need to **do laundry** today.
- I can’t **do anything** about it.
- Could you **do** me a **favor**?
- I’m trying to **do** the right **thing**.



## ***Do - Common Combinations***

| <b>COLLOCATION</b> | <b>EXAMPLE</b>                               |
|--------------------|--|
| do sport           | <i>Do you do any sports?</i>                 |
| do activity        | <i>I did yoga this morning.</i>              |
| do hair            | <i>I'll help you do your hair.</i>           |
| do work            | <i>We did a lot of work today.</i>           |
| do business        | <i>I did business with them in the past.</i> |
| do a job           | <i>They didn't do a good job.</i>            |
| do your best       | <i>Just do your best!</i>                    |
| do a favor         | <i>Can you do me a favor?</i>                |
| do anything        | <i>Are you doing anything this weekend?</i>  |
| do something       | <i>Let's do something tonight.</i>           |
| do nothing         | <i>You can't just do nothing!</i>            |



## Vocabulary Practice

### FILL IN THE BLANK

Complete the sentence with 'make' or 'do'.

Remember to put the verbs in the correct form (see – saw or watch – watched, etc.).

1. Have you \_\_\_\_\_ any work today?
2. I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ pizza tonight.
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ their best but they still lost.
4. I can't go out tonight. I have so much work to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. She's \_\_\_\_\_ her decision and we should respect it.
6. The dog \_\_\_\_\_ a crazy mess and I need to clean it up.
7. He's a little shy so he doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ friends easily.
8. These small changes will \_\_\_\_\_ a big difference in your life.
9. She \_\_\_\_\_ at least an hour of exercise every day.
10. They \_\_\_\_\_ an offer but we refused it.
11. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ me a favor and close the door please?
12. I tried to \_\_\_\_\_ a suggestion but she ignored me.
13. I \_\_\_\_\_ a few mistakes on the test.
14. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ any noise because she's asleep.
15. I need to \_\_\_\_\_ a few changes to the file before I send it to you.
16. We're never \_\_\_\_\_ business with him again.
17. I'll \_\_\_\_\_ dinner if you \_\_\_\_\_ the dishes!



# Speaking Practice

## DISCUSSION

Read and answer the questions. Give as much detail as you can.

1. Do you make breakfast every morning? What do you usually make?
2. What's a dish you're good at making? How do you make it?
3. Do you like doing nothing or do you have to constantly be doing something?
4. What are you doing this weekend? What do you usually do on weekends?
5. Do you make friends easily? Why do some people make friends easier than others? In your opinion, what's the best way to make friends?
6. How often do you do sports? Did you do any sports in high school?
7. Do you do yoga? If not, would you try it one day? Why or why not?
8. When was the last time you've made something for someone? What was it?
9. What's more important, making a lot of money or doing a job that you enjoy?
10. What's the biggest favor someone has done for you?
11. What is a small change you've made in your life that's made a surprisingly big difference? What's a lifestyle change you've been trying to make for a while?
12. What do you do when you can't make a decision? What's the best bad decision you've ever made?
13. What do you think are the most common mistakes young people make? How about older people? What do you think is the best way to overcome the fear of making mistakes?





## Speaking Practice

### QUOTES

Discuss the following quotes. Which one do you like best and why?

1. "The biggest mistake you can make in your life is to always be afraid of making a mistake." -Dietrich Bonhoeffer
2. "Sometimes doing nothing is doing something." -Thomas Dewar
3. "Nothing is work unless you'd rather be doing something else." -George Halas
4. "You cannot make progress without making decisions." -Jim Rohn
5. "Do your kids a favor. Love your spouse." -Jim Burns
6. "If you want to change the world, make something beautiful." -Charlie Peacock
7. "Doing your best means never stop trying." -Benjamin Franklin



## Answer Key

### FILL IN THE BLANK

1. Have you **done** any work today?
2. I'm going to **make** pizza tonight.
3. They **did** their best but they still lost.
4. I can't go out tonight. I have so much work to **do**.
5. She's **made** her decision and we should respect it.
6. The dog **made** a crazy mess and I need to clean it up.
7. He's a little shy so he doesn't **make** friends easily.
8. These small changes will **make** a big difference in your life.
9. She **does** at least an hour of exercise every day.
10. They **made** an offer but we refused it.
11. Can you **do** me a favor and close the door please?
12. I tried to **make** a suggestion but she ignored me.
13. I **made** a few mistakes on the test.
14. Don't **make** any noise because she's asleep.
15. I need to **make** a few changes to the file before I send it to you.
16. We're never **doing** business with him again.
17. I'll **make** dinner if you **do** the dishes!