

DO or MAKE?

Use **DO** for actions, obligations, and repetitive tasks.

Use **MAKE** for creating or producing something, and for actions you choose to do.

DO generally refers to the action itself, and **MAKE** usually refers to the result. For example, if you “make breakfast,” the result is a meal. If you “make a suggestion,” you offer an idea/plan for someone to consider.

DO

'Do' for general ideas, good or bad actions

'Do' is used when someone performs an **action, activity or task duty, job or (leisure) activity** and often when referring **to work of any kind**. Use 'do' when speaking about things in general and to describe indefinite activities. In other words, to describe an action without saying exactly what the action is. This form is often used with the words **'something, nothing, anything, everything, what, thing, etc**

'What shall we do now?' *'You can do what you like'* - *'He didn't do anything. He just sat there.'*

'You expect me to do everything around the house.' - *'I did a lot of research and I think I did a good job on that essay. I did my best anyway.'* - *'I intend to do lots of walking on holiday'*

Note - these activities **do not usually produce** a physical object.

Important Expressions with 'Do': There are a number of standard expressions that take the verb 'do'.

do well: *I did pretty well in the interview* - **do badly:** *Everyone did badly on the test* - **do good:** *The non-profit organization has done a lot of good in the community* - *A vacation will do you a world of good.*

do the right thing: *I wanted to do the right thing* - **do your best:** *Don't worry, just do your best.*

do somebody a favour (=do something for someone) as a favour

do time = spend a certain period in prison

HOUSEWORK: do the housework - the laundry - the dishes (*also “wash the dishes”*) - **the shopping**

EXCEPTION: make the bed = putting blankets, sheets, and pillows in the correct place so that the bed looks nice and not messy.

WORK / STUDY: do work - homework: *You can't watch TV until you've done your homework.*

do business - do a good/great/terrible job: *She did a good job* (in this expression, “job” doesn't necessarily refer to work. It simply means the person did something well)

do a report (*also: “writing a report”*)- **do research - do a course** (*also “take a course”*)

do the crossword (solve it) – **make a crossword puzzle** (create it)

TAKING CARE OF YOUR BODY: do exercise: *I do push-ups every day.* - **do your hair** (= style your hair) - **do your nails** (= paint your nails)

MAKE

Use 'make' for **constructing, building, producing, creating or performing something.**

I made three suggestions and left it to him to make the final decision

I've made all the arrangements for the trip and I've made a great effort to get it all right.

I'm afraid I'm going to have to make my excuses and leave. - I have to make three phone calls.

'Make' is often used when referring to **preparing** food of any kind.

make a meal - breakfast / lunch / dinner - make food (BUT: do the cooking) - make a cup of tea / coffee

Note - these activities usually **create (produce) something** that you can touch

Important Expressions with 'Make'

FOOD: make breakfast/lunch/dinner: make a sandwich - make a salad - make a cup of tea

MONEY: make money - make a profit - make a fortune - make \$_____ *I made \$250 selling my old CDs*

RELATIONSHIPS: make friends - make love - make a pass at (= flirt with someone) - make fun of someone (= tease / mock someone) - make up (= resolve a problem in a relationship) –

Communication: make a phone call - make a point - make a complaint - make a confession - make a speech - make a suggestion - make a prediction - make an excuse - make a promise - make a fuss (= complain about sth. unimportant) - make an observation - make a comment - make a reservation/booking

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

Plans & Progress: make plans - make a decision/choice - make a mistake - make progress - make an attempt/effort - make up your mind (= decide) - make a discovery - make a list - make sure - make a/the difference - make an exception

make, do, have and take

make	do	have	take
a mistake a profit/loss money/millions a fortune friends war a noise a mess fun of someone a phone call progress a difference	the ironing the housework your homework business well/badly sth wrong/right your best damage/harm sb a favour	a look dinner a headache a party a picnic a barbecue an appointment fun trouble sth in common	a photo advantage of sb care of sb place sth into account your time time no notice of sth part in sth the opportunity

Make is also used with most nouns for ways of **speaking/planning**. For example, you make a complaint, a promise, an offer, a threat, a speech, an apology, a point, a confession, an accusation, a suggestion, an arrangement, a decision, a plan, an appointment.

But, **have** is used with most nouns which involve a **two-way discussion**. For example, you have a conversation, a chat, a discussion, an argument, a fight, a row, a meeting, an interview.

We also often use **have** + a + verb (where the verb and the noun are the same). For example, have a look, a rest, a sleep, a drink, a walk, a go.

To Do	To Make
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to do a favour • to do a project • to do a test • to do an assignment • to do an exam • to do badly • to do business • to do damage • to do exercise • to do good • to do harm • to do homework • to do housework • to do nothing • to do research • to do something • to do some reading • to do some studying • to do some writing • to do the accounts • to do the cleaning • to do the dishes • to do the ironing • to do the laundry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to make a booking • to make a call • to make a cake • to make a choice • to make a comment • to make a complaint • to make a compromise • to make a deal • to make a decision • to make a difference • to make a fire • to make a fool of yourself • to make a fortune • to make a fuss • to make a habit • to make a move • to make a phone call • to make a point • to make a presentation • to make a profit • to make a promise • to make a remark • to make a reservation • to make a sound/noise

- to do the paperwork
- to do the shopping
- to do the hoovering
- to do time
- to do work
- to do your best
- to do your duty
- to do your hair
- to do your nails
- to do your job
- to do 50 miles per hour

- to make a speech
- to make a suggestion
- to make a threat
- to make a visit
- to make amends
- to make an appearance
- to make an appointment
- to make an attempt
- to make an enquiry
- to make an exception
- to make an excuse
- to make an offer
- to make arrangements
- to make believe
- to make friends
- to make fun
- to make changes
- to make corrections
- to make do
- to make love
- to make money
- to make plans
- to make progress
- to make sense
- to make someone angry
- to make someone happy
- to make (someone) mad
- To make someone sad
- to make someone's day
- to make sure
- to make time (To occupy or use (a certain) time in doing something)
- to make dinner/lunch/breakfast/etc
- to make a mess
- to make a mistake
- to make the bed
- to make war/peace