

7

Everyday verbs 1

This unit deals with *make* and *do*, two verbs that many learners have problems with. If you remember that the basic meaning of *make* is about producing something and the basic meaning of *do* is about performing an action, then the collocations on this page may seem more logical.

A

Make

collocation	example
make arrangements for	The school can make arrangements for pupils with special needs.
make a change / changes	The new manager is planning to make some changes .
make a choice	Amelia had to make a choice between her career and her family.
make a comment / comments	Would anyone like to make any comments on the talk?
make a contribution to	She made a useful contribution to the discussion.
make a decision	I'm glad it's you who has to make the decision , not me.
make an effort	Michael is really making an effort with his maths this term.
make an excuse	I'm too tired to go out tonight. Let's make an excuse and stay at home.
make friends	Caroline is very good at making friends .
make an improvement	Repainting the room has really made an improvement .
make a mistake	They've made a mistake in our bill.
make a phone call	I've got to make some phone calls before dinner.
make progress	Holly is making progress with all her schoolwork.

B

Do

collocation	example
do your best	All that matters in the exam is to do your best .
do damage	The storm did some damage to our roof.
do an experiment	We are doing an experiment to test how the metal reacts with water.
do exercises	We'll do some exercises practising these collocations tomorrow.
do someone a good turn / do someone a favour	Could you do me a favour and pick me up some milk from the supermarket? Jess did me a good turn by lending me her car while mine was in the garage.
do harm	Changing the rules may do more harm than good.
do your hair	No, I'm not ready. I haven't done my hair yet.
do your homework	My son has to do his homework straight after school.
do the ironing/shopping/ washing, etc.	I'll do the washing if you do the ironing .
do some work	We'll do some work on our project and then we'll go to the cinema.

Tip

Notice all the patterns that you can see in these tables. For example, *make a comment*, *make an excuse* and *make a contribution to a discussion* are all connected with saying things. Noticing connections like this may help you to remember the correct collocation.

4.4 Look at E and F and choose the correct adverb to complete these sentences.

- 1 Perhaps it's a good thing that Liam's unaware of what people really think of him.
- 2 I am aware that there will be problems whatever we decide.
- 3 Stella smiled as she watched the children playing happily in the garden.
- 4 My grandparents have been married for 45 years.
- 5 Place the glasses in the box – they're very fragile.
- 6 William whispered in Anna's ear that he would always love her.

4.5 Which of the sections A-F on the opposite page would each of these collocations fit into?

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 make a decision | 6 roar with laughter |
| 2 blissfully happy | 7 a key factor |
| 3 tread carefully | 8 prices rise |
| 4 a surge of emotion | 9 a ginger cat |
| 5 acutely embarrassing | 10 burst into song |

Over to you

Make a page in your vocabulary notebook for each of the types of collocation listed on the opposite page.

7.3 You are designing a questionnaire for your school website. Complete each question with *do* or *make*.

80%

HOW NICE ARE YOU?

1 Do you your best to be on time when meeting a friend?

☐ ALWAYS ☐ SOMETIMES ☐ NEVER

2 Do you ever the cooking at home?

☐ ALWAYS ☐ SOMETIMES ☐ NEVER

3 Do you excuses if someone asks you to a big favour for them?

☐ ALWAYS ☐ SOMETIMES ☐ NEVER

4 Do you ever negative comments about your friends' hair, clothes, etc?

☐ ALWAYS ☐ SOMETIMES ☐ NEVER

5 Do you find it easy to friends?

☐ ALWAYS ☐ SOMETIMES ☐ NEVER



Give yourself three points for 'always', two for 'sometimes', one for 'never'. Turn the page to find out how nice you really are.