**Do vs. Make**

**Do** and **Make** are two verbs, which frequently confuse students. Here we will learn about the difference between **Do** and **Make** and when to use each one.

**When do you use DO?**

DO is used as follows:

1. DO is used when talking about **work, jobs or tasks**. Note, they do not produce any physical object.

* Have you **done** your homework?
* I have guests visiting tonight so I should start **doing** the housework now.
* I wouldn't like to **do** that job.

2. DO is used when we refer to **activities in general without being specific**. In these cases, we normally use words like thing, something, nothing, anything, everything etc.

* Hurry up! I've got things to **do**!
* Don't just stand there – **do** something!
* Is there anything I can **do** to help you?

3. We sometimes use DO to **replace a verb when the meaning is clear** or obvious. This is more common in informal spoken English:

* Do I need to do my hair? (do = brush or comb)
* Have you done the dishes yet? (done = washed)
* I'll do the kitchen if you do the lawns (do = clean, do = mow)

Remember **Do** can also be as an auxiliary verb (for making questions in the present tense - Do you like chocolate?) For more about **Do** used in this case, see our page about [Do vs Does](http://www.grammar.cl/Present/Do_Does.htm). Here we will be talking about **Do** as a normal verb.

**When do you use MAKE?**

Make is for **producing, constructing, creating or building** something new.

It is also used to indicate the **origin of a product or the materials that are used** to make something.

* His wedding ring is made of gold.
* The house was made of adobe.
* Wine is made from grapes.
* The watches were made in Switzerland

We also use Make for **producing an action or reaction**:

* Onions make your eyes water.
* You make me happy.
* It’s not my fault. My brother made me do it!

You use make after certain nouns about **plans and decisions**:

* make arrangements,
* make a choice

We use Make with nouns about **speaking and certain sounds**:

* make a comment
* make a noise
* make a speech

We use Make with **Food, Drink and Meals**:

* make a cake
* make a cup of tea
* make dinner

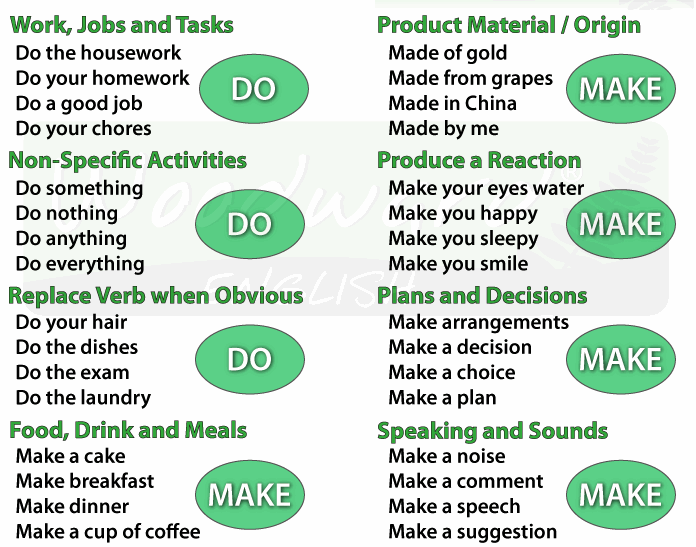
**Compare Do and Make**

A: You have to **make** a cake for Simon.

B: I’ll **do** it later.

Notice how in the response the verb DO is used. This is because the meaning is clear and to avoid saying “I’ll make it later.” which could sound repetitive.

**Do vs. Make Comparison Chart**

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**Common Expressions with Do and Make**

The following expressions are **set collocations** (combinations of words that frequently appear together) that you need to learn:

**Expressions with DO.** The following words are normally used with **Do**:

* a burp
* a course
* a crossword
* a dance
* a drawing
* a fart
* a favor / favour
* a job
* a painting
* a project
* a service
* an assignment
* anything
* badly
* business
* chores
* damage
* everything
* exercises
* good
* harm
* laundry
* nothing
* research
* right (the right thing)
* something
* the gardening
* the housework
* the ironing
* the dishes
* the rest
* the shopping
* the washing
* well
* work
* wrong (the wrong thing)
* your best
* your hair
* your homework
* your job
* your nails
* your work

**Expressions with MAKE.** The following words are normally used with MAKE:

* a bet
* a cake
* a call
* a change
* a choice
* a comment
* a complaint
* a confession
* a connection
* a cup of coffee / tea
* a date
* a decision
* a demand
* a difference
* a discovery
* a face
* a fool of yourself
* a fortune
* a friend
* a fuss
* a joke
* a line
* a list
* a living
* a loss
* a mess
* a mistake
* a noise
* a pass at someone
* a plan
* a point
* a prediction
* a profit
* a promise
* a reservation
* a sandwich
* a scene
* a sound
* a speech
* a statement
* a suggestion
* advances
* alterations
* an appointment
* an announcement
* an attempt
* an effort
* an error
* an escape
* an exception
* an excuse
* an impression
* an observation
* an offer
* amends
* arrangements
* breakfast
* certain
* clear
* dinner
* faces
* famous
* fun of someone
* love
* lunch
* inquiries
* peace
* possible
* progress
* money
* room
* sales
* sense
* someone rich
* someone smile
* sure
* trouble
* war
* your bed
* your mind up
* your way