**Let vs. Make**

**Let - Subject + let + object + bare infinitive (infinitive without 'to')**  
  
'Let' can mean 'allow' or 'give permission':

* David's mother **let** him use her car.
* Our boss **let** us leave early.

We can also use 'let' to mean 'allow' in the sense of 'make something possible':

* This student card **lets** you book discount flights.
* You can buy a pass which **lets** you visit all the art galleries more cheaply.

**Let's + infinitive** is often used to make a suggestion:

* **Let's** go to the cinema tonight.
* **Let's** get some coffee.

(Although 'let's' is a contraction of 'let us', we don't use 'let us' in this situation). We don't use 'let' in the passive.

**Make - Subject + make + object + bare infinitive (infinitive without 'to')**  
  
'Make' can mean 'force someone to do something that he or she doesn't want to do':

* His mother **made** him clean his room.
* The teacher **made** us study very hard.

It can also be used to mean 'cause someone to do something' (the thing can be good or bad):

* That film **made** me cry.
* My brother often **makes** me laugh.

If we use 'make' in the passive, we use the infinitive with 'to' instead of the bare infinitive:

* She was **made to** work on Saturday, even though she hated working at weekends.

We can also use subject + make + object + adjective. This means 'cause the object to be the adjective' (the adjective can be good or bad):

* Her story **made** me really happy.
* The traffic jam **made** us late.

**Choosing 'let' or 'make'**

Remember, we use 'let' when we mean 'allow'. It's usually something the person wants to do:

* My boss **let** me leave early (I wanted to leave early, and the boss gave me permission).

We use 'make' when we mean 'force' or 'cause'. It's often something the person doesn't want to do:

* My boss **made** me stay late (I didn't want to stay, but I had to).

When 'make' means 'cause' it can be something good or bad:

* My brother **made** me laugh

Laughing is a good thing, BUT laughing isn't something I wanted to do that my brother gave me permission for. Instead it's something that he caused.  
  
We can only use 'make + object + adjective'. We can't use 'let' in this way.