

**FEBRUARY 2025  
OPEN INTERMEDIATE WORKSHOP**

**DO or MAKE?**



**Two of the most common verbs in the English language are “do” and “make”, and they are also two of the most easily confused.**

**They both imply *activity*, but they function differently in sentences.**

**"do"** usually relates to physical tasks and activities that are vague or indefinite,  
while  
**"make"** refers to a specific outcome or object created by that activity.

In general, when we use “do” and “make” with noun phrases, “do” focuses on the *process of acting or performing* something, whereas “make” places greater emphasis on the *product or outcome* of an action:

When he was **doing** the calculations [*action*], he **made** some minor mistakes [*outcome*].

I **did** a lot of work at the weekend [*action*]. I **made** a pond in my garden [*outcome*].

*\*\*Although there are some general rules about when to use ‘do’ and ‘make’, there are many expressions with ‘do’ and ‘make’ which do not adhere to any rules.\*\**

An abstract graphic design on a black background. The word "DO" is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font in the center. It is enclosed within a large, thin white circle. A thick, light green ring follows the inner edge of this white circle. To the left, two white zigzag lines extend from the edge of the white circle. In the top right, there is a light orange double-circle. In the bottom right, there is a large, solid light orange circle. To the right of the main circle, there are four parallel white diagonal lines. In the bottom left, there is a small light orange circle.

**DO**

We use **“do”** for **work, jobs and daily tasks**,  
e.g.: **do** a good job, **do** housework, **do** the  
shopping, **do** homework.

We use **“do”** for **non-specific activities**,  
e.g.: **do** something, **do** nothing, **do** anything,  
**do** everything.

We use **“do”** to **replace a verb when it’s  
obvious what we are talking about**,  
e.g.: **do** the dishes, **do** the laundry.



## EXAMPLE SENTENCES

When will you **do** your homework?

Thank you. You've **done** a great job.

Are you **doing** anything this evening?

Their mother is quite elderly. They **do** everything for her.

While you're **doing** the shopping, I'll **do** the cooking.

He usually **does** the gardening at the weekend.

The image features a central circle with a thin white outline and a thick light green inner border. Inside this circle, the word "MAKE" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The background is black and decorated with various geometric elements: a white zigzag line on the left, a small light orange circle with a white outline at the bottom left, a larger light orange circle with a white outline at the top right, a set of four parallel white diagonal lines on the right, and a large solid light orange circle in the bottom right corner.

**MAKE**



As mentioned earlier, we often use “**make**” to express an activity that creates something *tangible*, i.e., something we can touch, such as in the first example on the next slide.

However, it’s important to remember that, although there are some general rules – guidelines - about when to use ‘**make**’ and ‘**do**’, there are many expressions which do not adhere to any rules, but these are *standard English collocations* – for example, ‘*make the bed*’.

We use **“make”** with **food, drink and meals**,  
e.g., **make** a cake, **make** a cup of coffee, **make** breakfast.

We use **“make”** when **something produces a reaction**,  
e.g., **make** your eyes water, **make** you sleepy, **make** you happy.

We use **“make”** with **plans and decisions**,  
e.g., **make** a plan, **make** arrangements, **make** a decision, **make** a choice.

We use **“make”** with **speaking and sounds**,  
e.g., **make** a noise, **make** a suggestion, **make** a speech, **make** a complaint.

We use **“make”** with **expressions related to money**,  
e.g., **make** a profit (or loss), **make** a lot of money.

We use the **past form** of **“make”** to **talk about material and origin**,  
e.g., **made** of gold, **made** in China, **made** by John.



## EXAMPLE SENTENCES

I'm **making** a cake for Jenny's birthday party.

I hate cutting onions. They always **make** my eyes water.

Bill has already **made** all the arrangements for us for next month's trip to Boise.

I'm feeling really nervous. I have to **make** a speech at the Awards Ceremony next month.

Hayley was the top salesperson again last quarter. With her commission, she's **making** more money than her boss!

I like your earrings. Are they **made** of silver?

# **WORKSHOP ACTIVITY 1**

**CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER  
FROM THE 4 OPTIONS**

**01**

**A Could you do a job for me next weekend, please?**

**B Could you done a job for me next weekend, please?**

**C Could you made a job for me next weekend, please?**

**D Could you make a job for me next weekend, please?**

**02**

**A Who usually makes the cooking in your home?**

**B Who usually do the cooking in your home?**

**C Who usually make the cooking in your home?**

**D Who usually does the cooking in your home?**

**03**

**A Have you finished done the arrangements for the sales meeting yet?**

**B Have you finished make the arrangements for the sales meeting yet?**

**C Have you finished making the arrangements for the sales meeting yet?**

**D Have you finished doing the arrangements for the sales meeting yet?**

**04**

**A I'd like making an appointment to see Dr. Smith, please.**

**B I'd like doing an appointment to see Dr. Smith, please.**

**C I'd like to make an appointment to see Dr. Smith, please.**

**D I'd like to do an appointment to see Dr. Smith, please.**

**05**

**A The first stage of the project involves make lots of research.**

**B The first stage of the project involves doing lots of research.**

**C The first stage of the project involves do lots of research.**

**D The first stage of the project involves making lots of research.**

**06**

**A Our company did record profits last year.**

**B Our company make record profits last year.**

**C Our company do record profits last year.**

**D Our company made record profits last year.**

# WORKSHOP ACTIVITY 2

Complete the sentences using an appropriate form of **"do"** or **"make"**



1. You will have to \_\_\_\_\_ a decision soon!

2. This weekend, I'd like to just relax and \_\_\_\_\_ nothing all day long.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ your homework first and then we'll have dinner.

4. My uncle is hoping to \_\_\_\_\_ a fortune with his new invention.

5. The primary goal of many large businesses is simply to \_\_\_\_\_ a profit for their shareholders.

6. I just need to \_\_\_\_\_ my hair and I'll be ready!

7. I've been promoted! Let's \_\_\_\_\_ something special this weekend to celebrate.

8. If you mow the lawn, I'll \_\_\_\_\_ the dusting and vacuuming.

9. That picture on the wall was \_\_\_\_\_ by my 6-year-old daughter.

10. We \_\_\_\_\_ business in countries around the world.

11. Don't worry. I'll \_\_\_\_\_ all the arrangements for the meeting tomorrow.

12. Would you like me to \_\_\_\_\_ a cup of tea?

13. I like to listen to music while I \_\_\_\_\_ the ironing.

14. We are currently \_\_\_\_\_ plans for next year's sales and marketing event.

15. Please note that you can now \_\_\_\_\_ payments online.

16. It's been great \_\_\_\_\_ business with you!

17. Several of the speakers at the conference \_\_\_\_\_ really inspiring speeches.

18. The politician stated that he would not be \_\_\_\_\_ any comments about his recent resignation.

19. Thank you, Jenny. I think you've \_\_\_\_\_ a great job on this report. It looks excellent.

20. John is going to \_\_\_\_\_ an accountancy course next year.



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**THANK YOU!**