

Do - Make

When 'do' or 'make' are used as main verbs it can be confusing . The verb 'make' goes with some words and the verb 'do' with other words.

Do

We use the verb 'do' when someone performs an action, activity or task.

do a crossword

do the ironing

do the laundry

do the washing

do the washing up

'Do' is often used when referring to work of any kind.

do your work

do homework

do housework

do your job

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

'Do' for General Ideas

Use the verb 'do' when speaking about things in general. 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, etc.'

I'm not doing anything today.

He does everything for his mother.

She's doing nothing.

Important Expressions with 'Do'

There are a number of standard expressions that take the verb 'do'. The best solution is to try to learn them.

do badly

do your best

do your hair

do your nails

do your worst

do business

do the dishes

do a favour

do good

do harm

do time - (to go to prison)

do well

Make

-We use the verb 'make' for constructing, building or creating

make a dress make food make a cup of tea / coffee

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

make a meal - breakfast / lunch / dinner

-Note - these activities usually create something that you can touch.

Important Expressions with 'Make'

There are a number of standard expressions that take the verb 'make'.

The best solution is to try to learn them.

make amends make arrangements make believe - (to pretend) make a choice

make a comment make a decision make a difference make an effort

make an enquiry make an excuse make a fool of yourself make a fortune

make friends make a fuss make a journey make love make a mess

make a mistake make money make a move make a noise make a phone call

make a plan make a point make a profit make a promise

make a remark make a sound make a speech make a suggestion make time

make a visit make your bed - (to prepare the bed for sleeping in)