**Vocabulary: Collocations with make and do**

### Make or do?

The verbs **do** and **make** can be confusing in English because the meaning is similar but they co-occur with different words. For example, you can say:

* do an exercise.

But you can't say:

* do a cake\*.

The phrase do an exercise is called a **collocation.**

#### Definition of collocations:

Collocations refer to words that usually go together. They co-occur more often than would be expected by chance.

### So how can you distinguish between collocations with make and do?

Generally speaking, use ***do*** for activity and ***make*** to create something. Compare these examples:

* I always **do** my homework in the evenings.
* I like spaghetti. I **make** it everyday

But there are other things to consider when using **do** and **make**. Here are some tips to help you make the right choice.

### Collocations with make and do

#### Collocations with do?

Use ***do*** when someone performs an action, activity or task.  
  
Examples:

* ***do***  
  ...the dishes  
  ... an exercise  
  ... the laundry  
  ... the ironing  
  ... the shopping

We often use **do**to refer to work of any kind.

Examples:

* **do**  
  ... your homework  
  ... your hair

Use the verb **'do'** when you speak about general things (to describe an action without saying exactly what the action is.)

Examples:

I've got nothing to **do** today.  
He doesn't **do** anything all day long.  
She **does** everything to attract him.

These are other expressions that you can use with **do:**

Examples:

-**do**... one's best  
... good  
... things right / badly / well  
... good  
... harm  
... time - (to go to prison)  
... your best / worst.

#### Collocations with make?

We use the verb ***make***to construct, build or create. The result is something that you can touch.

They make tea with mint in Morocco.  
She **makes** beautiful dresses.  
Let's **make** a cup of coffee!  
can you **make** a cup of tea?  
They **make** delicious food in this restaurant!

**Practice:** complete the blank with the right word (do or make)

1. I **……..**the shopping every Friday afternoon.
2. Please, can you **…………**a reservation for me?
3. She doesn't………….. much money.
4. Nobody helps my mother to **………..**the housework..
5. Will you **………..** me a favor? Help me carry this table.
6. Let's……….. the appointment for 10:00 in the morning.
7. Try not to **……….**any grammar mistakes in your writing.
8. Oh, dear! There is so much laundry to **…………**!
9. She always………. the the dishes late at night.
10. I'll………… spaghetti for dinner. Do you like it?