24 Verb collocations

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

1 a They have made a lot of progress in improving working conditions.
  b They have achieved a lot of progress in improving working conditions.
2 a Poor diet in childhood can have a long-term effect on health.
  b Poor diet in childhood can leave a long-term effect on health.

There are many common verb + noun combinations (*collocations*) in English:
make progress: I think the team have made progress this season.
make an impression: It is important to make a good first impression.
make a difference: We believe we can make a difference to children's lives.
make someone/something happy/comfortable/effective, etc.: The system can be improved to make it more effective.
have an effect: This incident will have a negative effect on tourism.
have time: Retired people have more time to spend on their hobbies.
have a(n) advantage/benefit: Tea is believed to have health benefits.
give a(n) reason/explanation: He didn't give any explanation.
give someone a(n) chance/opportunity: Give her a chance to explain first.
deal with a problem/situation: There are several problems we need to deal with.
commit a crime: She proved that he didn't commit the crime.

2 Correct the mistake below.

Can you ..... ?

3 Complete the sentences with an appropriate form of one of the verbs above.

1 His manager agreed to ..... him one final chance.
2 The police are trained to ..... such emergency situations.
3 I tried restarting the computer, but it didn't ..... any difference.
4 There was a rise in the number of violent crimes ..... in the city last year.
5 Working mothers often don't ..... time to cook fresh meals.
6 Both plans ..... their advantages and disadvantages.
7 This new treatment will ..... life easier for asthma sufferers.
8 His mother's death ..... a profound effect on him.

LIVEWORKSHEETS