81 *Make*, *do* and *take*: uses and phrases

A Things we *make*, *do* and *take*

Common mistakes

We use all three of these common verbs with particular nouns. These word partners (collocations) are often different in other languages, so look at them carefully.

I've **made** a **mistake**.
She **took** a **photo** of me this morning.
They **made** a big **effort** to finish the work.

I'm afraid I haven't **done** my **homework**.
I haven't **done** the **housework** yet.
The children are **making** too much **noise**.

Sometimes two different verbs are possible.
I'm just going to **take/have** a **shower**.
Take/Have a look at these pictures.
We must **make/take** a **decision**.

I'm **doing/taking** a Spanish **course** next month.
I don't **do/take** much **exercise**.

B *Make*

Make can mean 'to cause something to happen or cause a particular state'.
I like Boris – he **makes me** laugh.
It **made them** angry when Karen refused to help with the washing-up.
Make can also mean 'to force someone to do something'.
My parents **made me** do my homework when I was a child.
The police **made us** wait outside the main gates.

If you **make friends with** someone, you get to know them and like them.
I **made friends with** a couple of guys from Canada when I was on holiday.
If you **make up your mind,** you decide something.
He's **made up his mind** to leave work at the end of next month.

C *Do*

We use **do** to describe a general action when we don't know what it is, or there's no noun.
What shall we **do** this afternoon?
Don't just stand there, **do** something.

If you **do your hair** / **make-up**, you make it look nice.
I'll just **do my hair**, then we can go out.

If you **do your best,** you try as hard as possible.
I'm not a good student, but I always **do my best**.

D *Take*

Take can mean to:

- remove something from a place/person, e.g. I **took** the key **out of** my pocket.
- remove something without permission, e.g. Someone has **taken** my pen.
- accept something, e.g. Did he **take** the job they offered him? Do they **take** credit cards there?
- write something down, e.g. I **took** notes during the meeting. The man **took** my name and address.
- wear a particular size in clothes, e.g. I **take** size 43 shoes.

If you **take it** / **things easy**, you relax and don't do very much.
I'll **take things easy** today.

If you **take a break**, you stop work and rest for a short period.
Let's **take a** ten-minute **break**.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

81.1 **Choose the correct verb(s). Sometimes both are correct.**

1 Did he *do* / *make* many mistakes?
2 I couldn't *do* / *make* the homework.
3 We must *take* / *make* a decision soon.
4 I want to *do* / *make* a course in English.
5 Could you *take* / *have* a look at this letter?
6 How many photos did they *make* / *take*?
7 I don't often *make* / *do* the housework.
8 They *did* / *made* a lot of noise at the party.

81.2 **What are the people doing in the pictures?**





1 *She's taking a photo.* 3 ..... 5 .....





2 ..... 4 ..... 6 .....

81.3 **Replace the underlined word or phrase with a phrase including the verb in capitals. Keep a similar meaning.**

1 I <u>clean the flat</u> at the weekend. DO — *I do the housework at the weekend.*
2 They <u>forced us to go</u>. MAKE — .....
3 I'm <u>trying as hard as possible</u>. DO — .....
4 OK, let's <u>stop work and relax</u> for a bit. TAKE — .....
5 He is definitely <u>trying</u>. MAKE — .....
6 When are they going to <u>decide</u>? MAKE — .....
7 I'm going to <u>relax and do nothing</u> this weekend. TAKE — .....

81.4 **Complete the sentences.**

1 Someone *took* ..... my coat. It was here a minute ago and now it's gone.
2 I'm tired of writing this report. I'm going to ..... a break for ten minutes.
3 We ..... friends with Andrés when we were in the same class last year.
4 I've ..... nothing today.
5 If they offered him a job with more money, why didn't he ..... it?
6 Could you take a ..... at my essay? I think there are lots of mistakes in it.
7 When he shouted out the wrong answer, it ..... him look stupid.
8 What size do you ..... ?
9 I'm putting on weight because I don't ..... enough exercise.
10 I've ..... up my mind. I'm going to go to Thailand for my holiday.

81.5 Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, ask someone else the same questions.

1 What things make you happy, make you sad, and make you angry?

2 What things do your parents, or your boss, or your teachers make you do (or made you do in the past)?

LIVEWORKSHEETS