

48/ Collocations

Collocations you need...

48.1



- ▶ **to make an arrangement** to plan what you are going to do and how you will do it
- ▶ **to make a decision** to decide something after thinking about it
- ▶ **to make an excuse** to explain why you have done something bad or explain why you have not done something
- ▶ **to make a mess** to cause somewhere to be untidy
- ▶ **to make a mistake** to do something wrong
- ▶ **to make a (telephone) call** to use the telephone to speak to someone
- ▶ **to do the cleaning/cooking/shopping/washing, etc.** to perform the activity of cleaning/cooking/shopping/washing, etc.
- ▶ **to do yoga/judo, etc.** to perform the activity of yoga/judo, etc.
- ▶ **to do your homework** to complete the work that your teacher gives you to do at home

What is a collocation?



A collocation is *two words that are often used together*, such as the words **make** and **mistake** in 'Collocations you need' above. To a person who speaks English as their first language, these two-word combinations *sound right and natural together*.

Native speakers use collocations naturally, without having to learn them. Learners of English have to make an effort to remember these word combinations, or 'collocations'.

Exercise 1

Match the first part of each sentence (1–6) with the second (a–f).

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Our teacher gets very cross if we don't do | a an excuse about not feeling well. |
| 2 I didn't want to go out with Tom so I made | b cleaning. |
| 3 I'm not sure if I'm going to the party but I'll let you know when I've made | c our homework. |
| 4 Chris does most of the cooking so I do most of the | d such a mess! |
| 5 The only problem is that when Joe cooks he makes | e any arrangements yet. |
| 6 I don't know when we're meeting or where – we haven't made | f a decision. |

Exercise 2

Use the verbs **make** or **do** to complete the sentences. Remember to use the correct form of the verbs.

- 1 If you'll excuse me, I just need to make a phone call.
- 2 She _____ one or two spelling mistakes in her essay.
- 3 Isabel _____ judo every Thursday evening.
- 4 Make sure you _____ your homework, Jason.
- 5 My little brother _____ such a mess when he's painting.
- 6 Have you _____ any arrangements for the weekend yet?
- 7 I didn't want to go to the party so I _____ an excuse about having to work.
- 8 I have to _____ the shopping for the party this morning.

