

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.

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 afraid I haven't **done** my **homework**.

I haven't **done** the **housework** yet.

The children are **making** too much **noise**.

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**.

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

I do the housework at the weekend.

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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)?