

# LET'S LEARN SOME COLLOCATIONS PART 1

## WATCH THE INTERACTIVE FACEBOOK LESSON FIRST



This worksheet is a commentary to Suzanne's Interactive Lesson published on the Facebook page of **My Personal English Coach** on Monday, 8.6.2020. Make sure you've watched the lesson and followed the page before you go on to completing the exercises

## IS IT A BIG MISTAKE TO USE A WRONG COLLOCATION?



It would sound strange if someone said, "huge rain" "large decision" "finish a habit" or "do a mistake." Most people would understand the meaning, but native English speakers would never combine words in that way. **There is no grammatical reason why.** And that sometimes makes collocations difficult for English learners. If you don't know, for example, that "big decision" is a collocation, **it is not so easy to guess.**

## DO... COLLOCATIONS

do the housework  
do the laundry  
do the dishes (also "wash the dishes")  
do the shopping  
do the right thing  
do your best  
**Do business with somebody**



## WHAT IS A COLLOCATION?



A collocation is when two or more words naturally go together and sound correct together. Nice weather is an example of a collocation. We don't say pretty weather in English, even though NICE and PRETTY are synonyms. They are ARBITRARY and we need to memorise them, there is no rule... typical collocation: **heavy rain**

Not: **thick rain**

typical collocation: **high temperature**

Not: **tall temperature**

## MAKE ? DO? TAKE?

Do, make, and take are used in combination with hundreds of words such as: experiment (do an experiment), test (take a test), noise (make a noise) You can find some typical **MAKE** and **DO** collocations below.



## MAKE ... COLLOCATIONS

Make fun of someone	Make room
Make furniture	Make sense
Make love	Make someone angry/ mad/ happy/ sad
Make money	Make something easy
Make plans	Make sure
Make progress	Make the bed
Make an effort	Make time
<b>Make a wish</b>	Make an excuse
Make a joke	Make a promise
Make a point	Make a fuss (fare una scenata)
Make a bet	

# EXERCISES

## WHICH SOUNDS BETTER?

- 1 Does she ever \_\_\_\_ her own bread?  
a) do b) does c) make d) makes
- 2 You have to \_\_\_\_ something.  
a) do b) does c) make d) makes
- 3 She never \_\_\_\_ mistakes.  
a) do b) does c) make d) makes
- 4 My sister always \_\_\_\_ her bed.  
a) do b) does c) make d) makes

- 5 \_\_\_\_ this chocolate cake?  
a) Not did b) Did you do c) Did you make
- 6 It \_\_\_\_ any harm.  
a) don't do b) doesn't do c) doesn't make
- 7 When \_\_\_\_ that promise?  
a) did you did b) did you do c) did you make
- 8 I \_\_\_\_ my homework. Suzanne will be sad!  
a) did b) didn't do c) didn't make

## FIND THE RIGHT VERB



- 1 The conference took almost five hours so it was impossible to \_\_\_\_ attention all the time.  
give | pay | have | make | keep
- 2 This group is really difficult to \_\_\_\_ under control.  
hold | do | keep | make
- 3 It took us all day to clean up the place after the party - the guests \_\_\_\_ a terrible mess  
did | took | made | had
- 4 I don't think we should \_\_\_\_ a decision yet; we should wait.  
do | hold | make | create
- 5 Only 31% of the students who \_\_\_\_ the final exam passed it.  
had | took | made | wrote
- 6 I think we should buy a new washing machine - this one started \_\_\_\_ a lot of noise  
making | doing | having
- 7 Could you \_\_\_\_ me a favour and post these letters on your way home?  
do | make | give | get | bring
- 8 I've told him ten times that he's got the wrong number. I'll \_\_\_\_ crazy if they call again.  
go | be | become | get
- 9 The company offers free language training but not many people \_\_\_\_ advantage of it.  
make | take | do | keep

## MAKE OR DO?

- 1) I will \_\_\_\_ my best. - What else could I do ?  
The pupils \_\_\_\_ an excuse after being late for the lesson.  
He crashed the car and \_\_\_\_ a lot of damage to it .  
She \_\_\_\_ an attempt to break the world record, but she was unsuccessful  
How did your son learn to \_\_\_\_ his own pizzas?

## CHOOSE THE RIGHT VERB

1. I hope to \_\_\_\_ my own business one day.  
a) do b) have c) make
2. I don't \_\_\_\_ many hobbies.  
a) do b) have c) make
3. My wife usually \_\_\_\_ the bed, rather than me.  
a) does b) has c) makes
4. Many countries \_\_\_\_ problems with obesity.  
a) do b) have c) make
5. I \_\_\_\_ a mistake in my IELTS reading last time I took the test.  
a) did b) had c) made

6. I \_\_\_\_ my break at work at 3.15.  
a) do b) have c) make
7. Reading a lot \_\_\_\_ a real difference to your IELTS score.  
a) does b) has c) makes
8. I'm planning to \_\_\_\_ a holiday in June or July.  
a) do b) have c) make
9. I \_\_\_\_ my shopping at the weekends.  
a) do b) have c) make
10. I don't \_\_\_\_ any sympathy for people go to jail for hurting an animal.  
a) do b) have c) make

# ANSWERS

## WHICH SOUNDS BETTER?

- 1 Does she ever \_\_\_\_ her own bread?  
c) make
- 2 You have to \_\_\_\_ something.  
a) do
- 3 She never \_\_\_\_ mistakes.  
d) makes
- 4 My sister always \_\_\_\_ her bed.  
d) makes

- 5 \_\_\_\_ this chocolate cake?  
c) Did you make
- 6 It \_\_\_\_ any harm.  
b) doesn't do
- 7 When \_\_\_\_ that promise?  
c) did you make
- 8 I \_\_\_\_ my homework. Suzanne will be sad!  
b) didn't do

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