

**DO OR MAKE?**

---

*Do for general activity.*

When we talk about a general activity but do not say what it is, we can use *do*:

- I want to *do* something.
- What are you *doing* this evening?
- What can we *do*?
- *Do* it now!

---

## *Do for work.*

We usually use *do* to talk about work:

- What do you *do*? (= What is your job?)
- Who *does* your shopping?
- I don't want to *do* any work today.
- I hate *doing* the washing up.
- Have you *done* your homework?

---

Note that we sometimes use *do* to replace another more exact verb (but only when the meaning is clear from the situation). This is very informal.

- ▣ *do* the lawn (cut? mow? the lawn)
- ▣ *do* my room (tidy? paint? my room)
- ▣ *do* the car (wash? paint? repair? the car)

---

## *Make for construction.*

*Make* often expresses the idea of construction or creation:

- I'll *make* a cake for Anthony's birthday.
- This car was *made* in France.
- Did you *make* this table yourself?

Remember that we usually use *make* for products or goods that are manufactured. That's why you see labels like "Made in China" or "Made in the USA" on products that you buy.

---

Now compare:

- *Do* the shopping. (We don't really create anything. We just "do" an activity.)
- *Make* a cake. (We really create something.)

In the next example, notice how we use *make* for creation (the cake) and then use *do* (for the general activity) even though we're really talking about the same thing:

- I must *make* Anthony's cake. I'll *do* it now

---

□ do a favour

□ do a room

□ do business

□ do exercise

□ do good

□ do harm

□ do one's best

□ do one's duty

□ do one's hair

□ do sport

□ do the shopping

□ do the washing

- 
- make a bed
  - make a complaint
  - make a decision
  - make a living
  - make a loss
  - make a mistake
  - make a noise
  - make a phone call
  - make a profit
  - make a report

- make an effort
- make an exception
- make an excuse
- make an offer
- make friends
- make love
- make money
- make peace
- make progress
- make sure