

Title: Do, make and take collocations



You won't get far in English until you've mastered these basic verbs. The Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English is on your side!

- Do, make, and take are used in combination with hundreds of words such as experiment (do an experiment), test (take a test), and noise (make a noise).
- Remember, it's easy to find your way round long entries such as do, make, and take if you check the "signposts" at the start of each numbered sense which summarizes the meaning.

A. Which verb completes the phrase? Fill in the table below by ticking the correct column. You can use the dictionary to help you but, before you start, think which word in the phrase is the best one to look up.

do	make	take	
	✓		1. a lot of noise
			2. your homework
			3. always _____ excuses
			4. breakfast
			5. lots of family photos
			6. friends easily
			7. nothing all the time
			8. sugar in your coffee
			9. supper
			10. the bed
			11. the cooking
			12. the dishes
			13. the ironing
			14. the laundry
			15. a lot of mistakes
			16. the housework



Use the CD-ROM to get

more practice with word combinations featuring these essential verbs.

Just click on the "Exercises" button at the top of your screen for hundreds of interactive practice activities.

B. Complete the following sentences with one of the phrases in the table. You won't need to use all the phrases in exercise A.

- After my brother lost his job he just sat around doing nothing all the time.
- Even though I speak English quite well, I still _____, and that irritates me.
- He never _____. His room always looks a mess.
- I don't mind _____ if there's something good on the radio. Even if there are lots of shirts I just get on with it while I'm listening.
- I used to _____, but now I don't because it's not very good for you – well, it makes you fat.
- My dad used to get up first every morning, _____ for everybody, have his own, and then go to work just as we were all getting up.
- Our neighbours _____. They have three young children, they all play musical instruments, and the walls are rather thin.
- Some people seem to have millions of friends without even trying, but I've never been able to _____.

Teacher's Notes

4 At Home with Do, Make, and Take

Time : 20 – 25 minutes

Aims :

- To draw students' attention to the collocation information in the dictionary.
- To reinforce the idea of word combinations.
- To encourage students to think about the difference between do, make, and take.

1. Ask students what make, do and take mean. Ask them to give you examples of sentences using the verbs.
2. Students do exercise A and then check their answers with a colleague. If they are not sure of any answers, they should check in the dictionary. Tell them to look for definitions or examples that are the same as the word combinations in the chart.
3. Check the answers and discuss the dictionary entries. For example, how many different meanings are listed for make? (27), which are the most common phrases (those in bold type), etc.
4. Students then complete the sentences in exercise B with the phrases from exercise A. Explain that they may have to change tenses and pronouns etc for the phrases to fit in the sentences. They can check their answers in pairs before you go through the answers with the class.
5. Ask students to get into groups and tell each other who does what in their families or in the house they live in. The groups report back to the whole class. They should explain anything interesting that came up.

Answers :

- A. 1. make; 2. do; 3. make; 4. make; 5. take; 6. make; 7. do; 8. take; 9. make; 10. make; 11. do; 12. do; 13. do; 14. do; 15. make; 16. do
- B. a) doing nothing; b) make mistakes; c) makes his bed
 d) doing the ironing; e) take sugar in my coffee;
 f) make breakfast; g) make a lot of noise; h) make friends