Do: When we talk about an activity without saying exactly what it is, we use "do".

"Do something!" "I like doing nothing."
"Do" is usually the correct word when we are talking about work.
"I’m not going to do any work."
"I dislike doing housework. I hate doing the cooking and shopping and cleaning and washing up. Let’s get a maid to do all the boring jobs."

Make: "Make" often expresses the idea of creation or construction.

"I’ve just made a cake."
"Let’s make a plan."

In other cases there are no clear rules. If you are not sure which word is correct, look in a good dictionary or choose "make" - it is more likely to be right.

1 Complete each of the following expressions with do or make.

1 ………… the bed 11 ………… an excuse 21 ………… money
2 ………… your best 12 ………… an exercise 22 ………… an offer
3 ………… business 13 ………… a favour 23 ………… progress
4 ………… changes 14 ………… a fuss 24 ………… some reading
5 ………… a choice 15 ………… the garden 25 ………… repairs
6 ………… a complaint 16 ………… good/harm 26 ………… sense
7 ………… a deal 17 ………… your hair 27 ………… sure/certain
8 ………… a decision 18 ………… homework 28 ………… a speech
9 ………… an effort 19 ………… a journey 29 ………… a suggestion
10 ………… an exam 20 ………… a meal 30 ………… trouble

2 Complete the following sentences with the correct form of make or do.

1 The policeman received an award for …………………… his job well. He says that he has simply been …………………… his duty.
2 Helen is going to …………………… a cake for dessert.
3 Peter seems to think he can …………………… anything he wants in class.
4 You have …………………… a serious mistake, and there is nothing we can …………………… about it now.
5 "What do you …………………… for a living?" "I …………………… furniture."
6 Please don’t …………………… such a noise! I have work to ……………………
7 I usually …………………… the breakfast and my brother …………………… the dishes.
8 Anna has …………………… a very original costume for the carnival.
9 The car won’t start. What should I ……………………?
10 I have to …………………… these phone calls to the other students. Why don’t you …………………… the salad meanwhile?

3 Complete the following conversation with make or do.

A: Ray was right to …………………… languages at university.
B: Yes, he …………………… the right decision. He always …………………… very well at school and now he’s …………………… a lot of money as a translator at the United Nations.

A: Yes, I remember when we were all at school together. He …………………… all the work and you …………………… all the excuses for being late!
B: Well, you were no better! You always …………………… fun of Ray when he …………………… crosswords during break!
4 In replying to each of these questions, make use of these expressions in the correct tense and form: do (someone) harm, do the shopping, do the washing up, make a mess, make a noise, make an appointment, make an improvement, make friends (with), make fun of, make progress.

1 Mark has just made his shopping list. What is he going to do?
……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

2 What do shy people have difficulty in doing when they move to a new area?
……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

3 What do you have to do before you visit your dentist?
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4 What are children usually asked not to do when one of the family is ill?
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6 Why is Enid's teacher able to give her a better report this term?
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7 What does a sensitive person hate other people doing?
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8 Mother has tidied the sitting-room ready for the evening's guests. When the children want to play in it, what does she beg them not to do?
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9 If there isn't a dishwasher, what do you have to do after every meal?
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10 What effect are private lessons having on Ben's schoolwork?
……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

5 Complete the spaces with the correct form of make and do.

My name's Slade, Stan Slade, private investigator. The story begins one Saturday morning in June. I hadn't been very busy. In fact I had (1) only two jobs in a month. This big fat guy came into my office. He looked rich, very rich indeed - you know, fur coat, big cigar, he threw $1,000 on the table. He said, "That's for one week. You're working for me." Well, I don't usually (2) $1,000 in a month. "What did you want me to (3)?" I said. He sat down. "This is an important job, Slade. I don't want you to (4) any mistakes, OK? I want you to (5) arrangements to follow my wife. Here's her photograph. She's much younger than me and, well, I want to know everything she (6), everything! I want to know what time she gets up, when she (7) the housework, when she (8) the beds, when she (9) the washing-up. I want every detail. Find out when she goes out, where she (10) the shopping and what she buys. I want to know when she (11) a phone call, and who she phones. Can you (12)?" "Sure," I said. "She won't know I'm there. I won't (13) any fuss, and I won't (14) any noise." "Right," said the big guy. "By the way, can I (15) a suggestion?" "Sure, you're paying," I said, "(16) sure she doesn't see you. She's got some nasty friends, and they could (17) a lot of trouble for you." The fat guy left my office. I looked at the photo he'd given me, and the address. "Well," I thought to myself, "I suppose I should go out and (18) some work."
6 Write sentences as in the example:
0 I'm sorry I can't come out now - you see, there's the beds...
   Answer: Come on, you can make the beds later.
1 I'm sorry I can't come out now - you see there's my homework...
2 I'm sorry, I must stay in - you see there's the ironing...
3 I'm sorry, I'm too busy now - you see there's this list...
4 I'm sorry, I'm not free now - you see there's the housework.
5 I'm sorry, I must go - I'm off to the war.
6 I'm sorry, I can't go with you - you see there's the cakes.
7 I'm sorry, I'm busy with these English exercises at the moment.

7 Fill in the blanks with make or do.
1 ... good to others and they will ... good to you.
2 He always ... such a fuss when I ... a mistake.
3 He refused to ... me a favour.
4 He tried to ... fun of me but only ... a fool of himself.
5 I have a lot to ... today.
6 I want you to ... me a table.
7 I'm trying to ... my homework.
8 Let's ... a fire in the sitting-room.
9 Now that we're here we must ... the most of it.
10 Shall I ... a cup of tea?
11 That will ... You have eaten enough cake.
12 The attendant ... him a lot of harm by ... up stories.
13 The businessman thinks he will ... a fortune in America.
14 The mechanic must ... the car work.
15 What do you ... for a living?
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1 make 2 do 3 do 4 make 5 make 6 make 7 make 8 make 9 make 10 do
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4 What are children usually asked not to do when one of the family is ill?
   They are asked not to make a noise.

5 Why do doctors advise against smoking too much?
   It does you harm.

6 Why is Enid's teacher able to give her a better report this term?
   She’s been making progress.

7 What does a sensitive person hate other people doing?
   They hate other people making fun of them.

8 Mother has tidied the sitting-room ready for the evening’s guests. When the children want to play in it, what does she beg them not to do?
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3 I'm sorry, I'm too busy now - you see there's this list...
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4 I'm sorry, I'm not free now - you see there's the housework.
   Come on, you can do the housework later.

5 I'm sorry, I must go - I'm off to the war.
   Come on, you can make war later.

6 I'm sorry, I can't go with you - you see there's the cakes.
   Come on, you can make the cakes later.

7 I'm sorry, I'm busy with these English exercises at the moment.
   Come on, you can do the English exercises later.

7 Fill in the blanks with make or do.

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