

Verb *to make*

The verb *to make* collocates with a great number of nouns and in those collocations it takes on different meanings. Its basic meaning is “to create or prepare something” or we might say that it is generally associated with physical actions. These actions might involve speaking, appearing, becoming, gaining, winning, etc. For example,

- ❖ May I *make a suggestion*?
- ❖ Last year they *made a profit* of nearly €10 million before tax.
- ❖ I don't think he'll ever *make an actor*.

A Substitute the collocations with the verb *to make* by a single verb.

1. Tesco *has made the decision* not to proceed with a new store.
2. Students *made an attempt* to occupy the building today.
3. The government plans *to make changes* to the tax system.
4. His first speech as president *made an impression on* his audience.
5. They *make a promise* that they will provide you with the best deal available.
6. Several people *made suggestions about* how to raise funds.

Key: 1. *has decided*, 2. *attempted*, 3. *to change*, 4. *impressed*, 5. *promise*, 6. *suggested*

B Replace the verb *to make* with another common verb without changing the meaning of the sentence.

1. David Cameron *made a speech* about why he wants to lead his country.
2. He did not retain the expired licence nor *made a photocopy* of it.
3. If you do not have access to a camera, then try and *make a sketch* of the scene.
4. A committee of councillors *will make a decision* that will shape the future of the club.
5. They'll first *make a guess* as to the extent of the problem.
6. The journalist *made some notes* about what he wanted to ask.

Key: 1. *gave*, 2. *did*, 3. *do*, 4. *will take*, 5. *have/take*, 6. *took*

C Complete the sentences with one of the following nouns: *appointment*, *mess*, *promise*, *noise*, *fortune*, *will*.

1. World leaders made a _____ that every child would have access to a primary school education by 2015.
2. They made a _____ buying and selling property.
3. I think you should make an _____ with a lawyer specialised in trusts.
4. The police deal with noise from vehicles and other activities, including people making a _____ in public streets.
5. She made a new _____ when she remarried.
6. The new colleague made a terrible _____ of the job.

Key: 1. *promise*, 2. *fortune*, 3. *appointment*, 4. *noise*, 5. *will*, 6. *mess*