

Verb *to do*

The verb *to do* collocates with a great number of nouns and in those collocations it takes on different meanings. For example:

- ❖ We'll have to get someone *to do the roof*. (= to mend the roof)
- ❖ Your team *did the flowers* for our wedding on 17th January. (= arranged the flowers)

To do is the most usual verb for talking about tasks and duties, and for talking about producing something using our hands, our mind or our skill.

For some other examples of collocations of the verb *to do*, see the exercises below.

A Match the two parts of the sentences below.

1. Some assessment criteria require learners *to do*
 2. I was very pleased to be asked *to do*
 3. When doctors *do*
 4. It is far easier to hire a professional company *to do*
 5. It's so easy *to do*
- a. *the food for the* institute launch party last month.
 - b. *nothing* all day, but it's the self-discipline that gives you the motivation to be successful.
 - c. *research* on a drug, they often cannot find information on the negative effects.
 - d. *some writing* such as create a CV or complete an application.
 - e. *the washing* for you than do it yourself.

Key: 1d, 2a, 3c, 4e, 5b

B Rewrite the following sentences using single verbs instead of the collocations with the verb *to do* in italics.

1. The earthquake *has done serious damage to* the infrastructure.
2. We advise tourists *to do a photocopy of* their visa page and the passport itself.
3. Could you *do a translation of* the report by the end of the week?
4. Findings from US research suggest that unfit people with high cholesterol levels would be better off *doing the garden* than taking pills.
5. The builder *did a rough sketch of* how the new stairs would look.

Key: 1. *has seriously damaged*, 2. *to photocopy*, 3. *translate*, 4. *gardening*, 5. *sketched roughly*

C Complete the sentences with one of the following nouns: *crossword, degree, exam, English, hair*.

1. "What _____ did you do at York?" "Environmental Science."
2. I would not have trusted anyone else to do my _____ for such a special occasion.
3. People who spend money on brain trainers to keep their mind sharp may well get the same benefit from doing a _____.
4. I did _____ at school but that was a long time ago.

5. Last week I did an _____ which determined if I passed the course or not.

Key: 1. degree, 2. hair, 3. crossword, 4. English, 5. exam