



Learn English Through Stories

Intermediate Collocations

**Adopted and modified by
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Reeta's Routine by K S Sandhu

Reeta is a student at college in London. She is 19 years old and lives with her aunt in a small flat. Every day, she tries to do her best to organise her time well because she wants to make progress in her studies and her life.

Reeta gets up early in the morning at 6:30. After taking a shower, she does exercises for 15 minutes in her room. Then she meditates for 20 minutes to feel calm and ready for the day. She eats a simple breakfast – a coffee and some toast. While she eats, she sometimes makes a phone call to her mother in India to say hello.

Before she leaves for college, Reeta does her hair quickly and checks her bag. She always does her homework the night before, so she does not need to make an excuse if the teacher asks for it. Today, however, she made a mistake yesterday in her English assignment. She forgot one question! She feels a little sad, but she decides to make an effort to make an improvement next time.

On the bus to college, Reeta thinks about her week. She needs to make arrangements for a group project. Her friends want to meet on Saturday, but Reeta must make a choice – go to the library or help her aunt do the shopping and do the washing. She decides to do someone a favour and help her aunt first. Family is important.

At college, Reeta works hard in her lessons. In science class, the teacher asks the students to do an experiment with plants. Reeta enjoys it and tries to do her best. She also makes a contribution to the class discussion by making a comment about pollution. The teacher smiles and says, "Good point, Reeta!"

During break time, Reeta sits with her new classmates. She is shy, but she wants to make friends. She starts talking to a girl called Maria. They laugh together and make a plan to study English in the library after lessons. Reeta feels happy – she is making progress with her speaking!

In the afternoon, Reeta goes home. She does some work on her laptop for a project. Later, she helps her aunt do the ironing. Her aunt says, "Thank you, Reeta. You always do me a good turn." Reeta smiles. She does not want to do harm to their relationship by being lazy.

In the evening, Reeta thinks about her day. Sometimes she feels tired and wants to make a change in her routine – maybe sleep later or go out more. But

she knows that making changes takes time. She does not make an excuse to stop trying. Instead, she makes a decision to continue working hard.

Before bed, Reeta does the washing of her clothes and prepares for tomorrow. She knows that if she does her best every day, she will make progress and one day achieve her dreams.

7

Everyday verbs 1

This unit deals with *make* and *do*, two verbs that many learners have problems with. If you remember that the basic meaning of *make* is about producing something and the basic meaning of *do* is about performing an action, then the collocations on this page may seem more logical.

A **Make**

collocation	example
make arrangements for	The school can make arrangements for pupils with special needs.
make a change / changes	The new manager is planning to make some changes .
make a choice	Amelia had to make a choice between her career and her family.
make a comment / comments	Would anyone like to make any comments on the talk?
make a contribution to	She made a useful contribution to the discussion.
make a decision	I'm glad it's you who has to make the decision , not me.
make an effort	Michael is really making an effort with his maths this term.
make an excuse	I'm too tired to go out tonight. Let's make an excuse and stay at home.
make friends	Caroline is very good at making friends .
make an improvement	Repainting the room has really made an improvement .
make a mistake	They've made a mistake in our bill.
make a phone call	I've got to make some phone calls before dinner.
make progress	Holly is making progress with all her schoolwork.

B **Do**

collocation	example
do your best	All that matters in the exam is to do your best .
do damage	The storm did some damage to our roof.
do an experiment	We are doing an experiment to test how the metal reacts with water.
do exercises	We'll do some exercises practising these collocations tomorrow.
do someone a good turn / do someone a favour	Could you do me a favour and pick me up some milk from the supermarket? Jess did me a good turn by lending me her car while mine was in the garage.
do harm	Changing the rules may do more harm than good.
do your hair	No, I'm not ready. I haven't done my hair yet.
do your homework	My son has to do his homework straight after school.
do the ironing/shopping/washing, etc.	I'll do the washing if you do the ironing .
do some work	We'll do some work on our project and then we'll go to the cinema.

Tip

Notice all the patterns that you can see in these tables. For example, *make a comment*, *make an excuse* and *make a contribution to a discussion* are all connected with saying things. Noticing connections like this may help you to remember the correct collocation.

Exercises

7.1 Use a collocation with *make* and a noun instead of the underlined words in each of these conversations.

- Naomi: The bill says we've had three desserts. We only had two.
Stella: The waiter must have been mistaken.
- Avery: It's so difficult. Should I take the job or not?
Owen: I know it's difficult. But you have to decide one way or the other.
- Grace: Can you and Ethan come to dinner on Saturday?
Lily: Yes, we'll have to arrange to get a babysitter, but it should be OK.
- Zoe: Did you hear about the air traffic controllers' strike in the USA?
Aaron: Yes. We had to change our travel itinerary because of it.
- Luke: Can I have chips *and* rice with my lunch?
Clare: No, you have to choose, chips or rice, but not both.
- Gavin: Do you intend to speak at the meeting?
Victoria: Yes, I hope I can contribute to the debate.

7.2 Choose the correct collocation, *do* or *make*.

- Did the fire *do* / *make* much damage to the factory?
- I hate *doing* / *making* my homework at the last minute.
- You must *do* / *make* an effort to work harder.
- Did you *do* / *make* any work at the weekend?
- We are trying to *do* / *make* improvements to the system for registering.
- Do you think it would *do* / *make* any harm if I cut some leaves off this plant?

7.3 You are designing a questionnaire for your school website. Complete each question with *do* or *make*.



80%

HOW NICE ARE YOU?

1 Do you your best to be on time when meeting a friend?
 ALWAYS SOMETIMES NEVER

2 Do you ever the cooking at home?
 ALWAYS SOMETIMES NEVER

3 Do you excuses if someone asks you to a big favour for them?
 ALWAYS SOMETIMES NEVER

4 Do you ever negative comments about your friends' hair, clothes, etc?
 ALWAYS SOMETIMES NEVER

5 Do you find it easy to friends?
 ALWAYS SOMETIMES NEVER

Give yourself three points for 'always', two for 'sometimes', one for 'never'. Turn the page to find out how nice you really are.

Answers

Unit 7

- 7.1**
- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | made a mistake | 4 | make a change / (some) changes to |
| 2 | make a decision | 5 | make a choice |
| 3 | make arrangements / an arrangement | 6 | make a contribution |
- 7.2**
- | | | | |
|---|-------|---|------|
| 1 | do | 4 | do |
| 2 | doing | 5 | make |
| 3 | make | 6 | do |
- 7.3**
- | | | | |
|---|----------|---|------|
| 1 | do | 4 | make |
| 2 | do | 5 | make |
| 3 | make; do | | |