DO OR MAKE ?

When we use *do* and *make* with noun phrases, *do* focuses on the process of acting or performing something, *make* emphasises more the product or outcome of an action:

*When I was [action]****doing*** *the calculations, I [outcome]****made*** *two mistakes.*

*I [action]****did*** *some work for her last summer; I [outcome]****made*** *a pond in her garden.*

**Examples of nouns used with *do* and *make***

**Nouns which combine with *do***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *activity* | *damage* | *favour* | *job* | *task* |
| *business* | *drawing* | *gardening* | *laundry* | *test* |
| *cleaning* | *duty* | *harm* | *one’s best* | *washing (up*) |
| *cooking* | *exam(ination*) | *homework* | *painting* | *work* |
| *course* | *exercise* | *ironing* | *shopping* |  |

*I* ***do*** *the shopping on Fridays usually.*

*Could you* ***do*** *a job for me next week?*

*Who* ***does*** *the cooking in your house?*

**Nouns which combine with *make***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *apology* | *coffee* | *excuse* | *love* | *offer* | *remark* |
| *assumption* | *comment* | *friends* | *lunch* | *phone call* | *sound* |
| *bed* | *complaint* | *guess* | *mess* | *plan* | *soup* |
| *breakfast* | *dinner* | *law* | *mistake* | *profit* | *speech* |
| *cake* | *effort* | *list* | *money* | *progress* | *statement* |
| *change* | *error* | *loss* | *noise* | *promise* | *tea* |

*They* ***made*** *me an interesting offer of a job in Warsaw.*

*Not many building firms will* ***make*** *a profit this year.*

*I have to* ***make*** *a phone call.*