

71 Verbs often confused



Beavers **bring** twigs and branches from surrounding areas to build a dam. They start by building vertical poles, then **lay** branches across them to form a wall.

1 *make and do*

Make has a number of uses:

Aunt Alice **is going to make** the bridesmaids' dresses. (= create)

Gouda cheese **is made** in Holland. (= is produced)

This multinational **makes** a lot of products in Sri Lanka. (= manufactures)

The spare bedroom **has made** a wonderful office for Deirdre. (= has become)

Those new drugs seem **to make** him very lethargic. (= cause him to be)

- *make* + object + infinitive (without *to*) means 'force' or 'command' (► Unit 63.3):

The police officer **made me empty** my pockets.

- idiomatic meanings such as 'earn' and 'keep an appointment':

He **makes** \$1,000 a week on the oil rigs. I can't **make** it on Friday – I'm out all day.

We often use *do* to describe an activity or to mean 'carry out/complete a task':

What **are** we **going to do** for your birthday? (= take part in an activity)

You can go out after you've **done** your homework. (= you've completed)

We can use *do* + determiner + *-ing* form to describe regular tasks at home or at work:|

There isn't much in the fridge as I **haven't done the shopping** yet.

We **do the stocktaking** every Wednesday morning.

Collocations with *make* and *do*, e.g. *make an effort*, *do research* ► Unit 68.3

2 *bring and take, fetch*

Bring and *take* have opposite meanings:

<i>bring</i>	<i>take</i>
to take someone or something with you to the place you are now, to your home, or to the place/event you have been talking about: <i>I've brought</i> the pliers you said you needed – here they are. When are you going to bring your new friend to meet us? (to our house)	to move someone or something away from the place you are now, away from your home or away from the place/event you have been talking about: <i>I can't find the cheque book – Dennis must have taken</i> it when he left this morning. When are you taking me to meet your parents? (away from here to their home)

The choice of verb depends on the situation of the speaker:

Are you **bringing** your scuba gear? (on our holiday)

Are you **taking** your scuba gear? (on your holiday)

Fetch means to collect someone or something from another place and bring it to the place you are now, to your home or to the place you are talking about. We don't use *bring* with this meaning of 'collecting':

✗ *Could you bring the kids from school tomorrow?*

✓ *Could you fetch the kids from school tomorrow?* (= go to the school and bring them home)