Do or make?
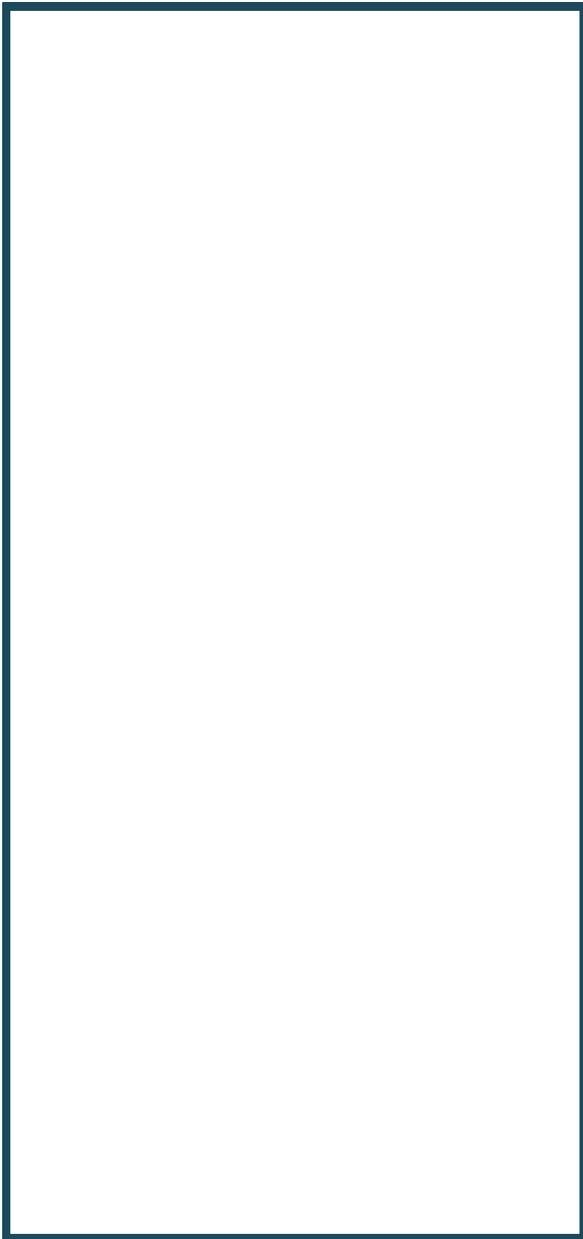
Complete the sentences with the words **do** or **make**..
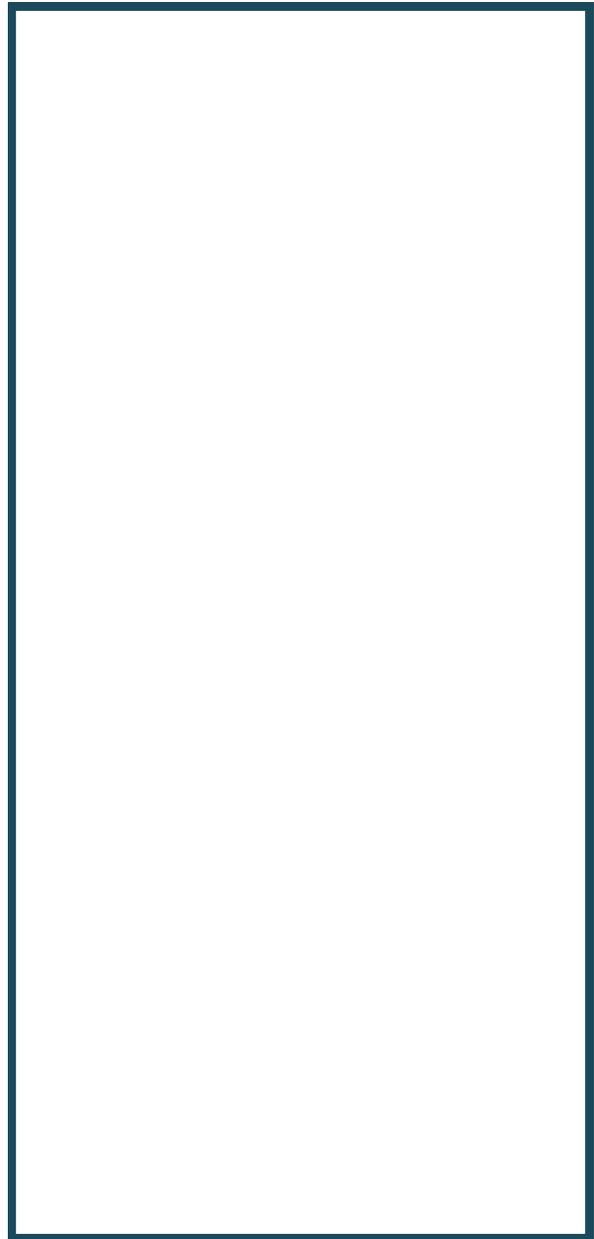
1. I'm going to the store to buy some sugar and eggs. I plan to
_____make_____ a cake for Laura's birthday tomorrow.

2. Every Wednesday, I go to the store to _____ the grocery
shopping.

3. When you open the flour, be careful not to _____ a mess!

4. I'm very busy, but I _____ time in my schedule for English class.

5. The boys traveled on an airplane for the first time. Now they want to
_____ a model plane together.

6. When I get home I have to _____ the laundry. Then I'll
_____ my bed.

7. Get a good job and _____ a lot of money!

8. _____ your job well and everyone will respect you.

9. Mother always says: "_____ as I say, not as I do."

10. "Let's _____ something fun this afternoon! Why don't we go
for a hike?"

How many things or actions can you think of that go with each word?

MAKE

DO

Notes for the Teacher

Do is used to talk about actions, activities, and chores. We do all kinds of actions and activities (e.g., exercise, homework, laundry, the dishes, etc.).

Make is generally related to production. We make things, not actions. Sometimes we use "make" with things that are not visible (e.g., progress, decisions, time, etc.).

*Tip: One way students can test out whether they should use "do" or "make" is to try substituting the word "create". If it still makes sense, then most likely the right word is "make". There are some exceptions, such as "make the bed", which is an expression that refers to smoothing out the bed linens, but could also literally mean to "create" the bed.

You generally don't need to go into complicated grammar explanations when teaching your student (this can sometimes be overwhelming). When working with a student on this topic, we recommend giving them lots of different examples, working on the exercises, and encouraging them to come up with their own examples using people and situations in their life.

For this particular grammar point, speakers of some Romance languages (French, Spanish, and Portuguese, for example) may have difficulty distinguishing between these two verbs because the common Latin root used one verb for both: "facere"

Answer Key:

1) make   2) do   3) make   4) make   5) make

6) do/make   7) make   8) do   9) do   10) do