

Lesson Plan:

Advanced collocations (make, do, take, have)

LEVEL	TIME	SKILLS	FOCUS
Intermediate / Advanced (B1-C1)	60-90 minutes	Vocabulary, writing, speaking	Verb-noun collocations; make vs. do; take vs. have; register; collocation errors

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Learn and use 30+ verb-noun collocations with make, do, take, and have
- Understand why these collocations are fixed and cannot be substituted
- Distinguish between formal and informal collocations
- Avoid the most common collocation errors in writing and speaking

TARGET LANGUAGE & EXAMPLES

Make collocations

- make a decision / a mistake / an effort / an appointment / progress / sense
- make a speech / a point / a difference / an exception / a contribution

Do collocations

- do research / work / business / damage / harm / good / a favor / the shopping
- do your best / do wonders / do justice to something / do someone a disservice

Take collocations

- take responsibility / action / a risk / advantage of / part in / pride in
- take into account / take effect / take place / take a decision (formal BrE)

Have collocations

- have an impact / an effect / an influence / an advantage / a disagreement

- have access to / have concerns about / have reservations about / have potential

Meaning & Nuance

Verb	Correct collocation	Incorrect (logical but wrong)	Why
make	make a decision	do a decision	fixed convention — not logical
do	do research	make research	'do' for tasks/work activities
take	take action	make action	'take action' is idiomatic and fixed
have	have an impact	make an impact	both exist! 'make' = create impact; 'have' = possess impact
make	make progress	do progress	'make' used for creation or achievement
do	do damage	make damage	'do' = cause (harm, good, damage)

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up: Which verb? (5-10 min)

Task: Students complete 10 collocations: make, do, take, or have?

'___ a risk', '___ research', '___ a decision', '___ an impact' → Reveals errors and creates motivation.

2. Presentation (15 min)

Task: Categorize collocations by verb with example sentences.

- Highlight: make/do are hardest because there is no logical rule — it's convention.
- Have an impact vs. make an impact — both exist with slightly different nuance.

3. Collocation auction game (15 min)

Task: Students 'bid' on 15 collocations — only if they're sure each is correct.

- Mix in incorrect combinations. Highest bidder with most correct collocations wins. → Creates productive uncertainty that drives engagement.

4. Writing and discussion (25 min)

Task: Write a paragraph about a project or decision using at least 8 collocations.

- Then discuss: 'What should a manager take into account when making decisions?'
- Note collocations used naturally in the discussion.

TEACHER NOTES

- Collocations are a key differentiator between B1 and B2/C1 — this lesson directly targets that gap.
- Make vs. do is the most confused pair. Spend extra time on this.

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one or more:

1. Write 10 sentences using 5 make collocations and 5 do collocations.
2. Find 8 collocations with take and have in an article and write the sentence context for each.
3. Correct 6 collocation errors in a paragraph.