

COLLOCATIONS with COMMON VERBS

do	make	have	take	give
the accounts business a crossword a course in Spanish damage a deal a degree the dishes your duty an exam (<i>esp. BrE</i>) exercise an experiment the food for a party French at school (<i>esp. BrE</i>) good your hair 'Hamlet' your homework an impression (= an imitation of sb) your job judo lunch (= meet for lunch) 60 miles per hour an operation Paris (= visit the sights) research the shopping (<i>BrE</i>)/ some shopping a sketch a test a tour a translation the washing (<i>BrE</i>)/ the laundry some work	an appointment an argument for sth an attempt the bed a cake a case for sth changes a choice a connection a contribution a decision dinner an effort a face a film/movie friends a guess an impact an impression (= a strong effect) a mark a mess a mistake money a noise a note/notes peace a photocopy your point progress a promise a sketch a speech a statement a suggestion a trip your will	an accident an argument a bath/shower (<i>both esp. BrE</i>) a break breakfast cancer a chance a chat (<i>esp. BrE</i>) a cold difficulty a drink a feeling fun a guess (<i>BrE</i>) a heart attack a holiday (<i>BrE</i>)/ vacation (<i>AmE</i>) an idea an impact an interest a look a meeting a party a plan a nap an operation an opportunity patience problems a shock a snack a swim time trouble	action a bath/shower (<i>both esp. AmE</i>) a bite a break the bus a (phone) call a chance a class control a course in Spanish a decision (<i>BrE</i>) a deep breath a dislike to sb an exam French at school a guess (<i>AmE</i>) a holiday (<i>BrE</i>)/ vacation (<i>AmE</i>) an interest in sth the lead an example medicine a nap notes notice a photo/picture a pill a risk a sip size 14 a swim (<i>esp. AmE</i>) sb's temperature a walk an X-ray	advice to sb sb an answer birth sb a chance sb a choice credit to sb a cry of pain an example sb a headache sb help sb a hug sb an idea the impression that... instructions an insight into sth sb a kiss a lecture sb lessons sb a lift (<i>BrE</i>)/ ride (<i>AmE</i>) your opinion sb an order a party a performance sth a polish (<i>esp. BrE</i>) sb a present priority to sth sth a pull sb a push sb a shock a sigh a smile a speech some thought to sth sb time (to do sth) a welcome to sb

- 1 Find the nouns in the lists for tasks and duties (for example *do the dishes*). Which verb is the most often used? Which tasks are exceptions?
- 2 Find expressions in each column that can be substituted by a single verb. (For example you can *do damage* to something or just *damage* something.) Which column has the most?
- 3 Find expressions connected with the following:

speaking	experiencing something	producing something using your hands, your mind or your skill	physical actions
<i>make/give a speech</i>	<i>have an accident</i>	<i>make dinner</i>	<i>have/take a bath</i>

Can you see any patterns emerging? Are there any exceptions?

- 4 How many items can you find that collocate with more than one of the verbs (for example you can *have* or *take* a break)?
- 5 Complete each of the following sentences using *do*, *make*, *have*, *take* or *give* (more than one answer may be possible). If the noun in the example is not in the table above, look for a similar noun. For example, *fortune* is not in the list but *money* is. You can check your answers by looking up the entries for the nouns, but try to predict what the verbs will be before you do this.

- a Make sure you have/take a look at the engine before you buy the car.
- b After the interview I had to _____ a test.
- c They always _____ us a welcome when we go there.
- d I sometimes _____ a nap in the afternoon
- e Saturday's my day for _____ jobs around the house.
- f The housing committee will _____ priority to the elderly.
- g Let's _____ one more swim before we go back to the hotel.
- h He _____ a short laugh when he realized his mistake.
- i The moment we met we _____ a dislike to each other.

- j I told her I'd run in the marathon—I'm not going to _____ any promises like that again.
- k She's always _____ an interest in current affairs.
- l She _____ her fortune on the stock market.
- m _____ a picture of me and your dad together.
- n The kids are _____ a terrible racket.
- o Her singing _____ an impression on me.
- p _____ the handle a twist and the door should open.
- q I don't know the answer, so I'll _____ a guess.
- r How often do you have to _____ the medicine?
- s Everyone else was _____ notes in the lecture, but I had forgotten my pen.
- t A TV company is visiting our school to _____ a documentary about teaching!

- 6 Put each of the following adjectives into one of the sentences in exercise 5, before a noun that it collocates with. If you want to check in the dictionary you will need to look up the entries for the nouns.

close copious instant keen lasting odd rash sharp top warm wild

For example: Make sure you have a close look at the engine before you buy the car.