Collocations: *Make* and *Do*

Lesson Objectives:

1. Understand the correct use of common collocations using the verbs *make* and *do*
2. Use the *Hong Kong Corpus of Spoken English* as a tool for inductive learning.
3. Practise writing skills.

Length: approx. 45mins

Target students: Advanced Secondary School Learners/English for Academic Purposes (EAP).

Activity 1

Learners of English often use the verbs *do* and *make* incorrectly. This is because there are fixed expressions, called *collocations*, which use either *make* or *do*.

For example:

The Prime Minister needs to ~~do~~ a decision

The Prime Minister needs to make a decision

You will now use the **Hong Kong Corpus of Spoken English** and decide whether the following sentences are correct or incorrect. If they are incorrect, re-write them.

To use the corpus, follow the steps below:

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1. Go to http://rcpce.engl.polyu.edu.hk/index.html
2. Click on <u>KWIC</u> (1st column) for the **Hong Kong Corpus of Spoken English**
3. Go to the search box and enter the main word of your search followed, if you like, by an additional word in the search box on the right hand-side
4. Read the concordance lines and decide which verb is most suitable in the sentences below.
5. If the sentences are incorrect, re-write them using the appropriate verb.

A) I am not sure whether this is the right time to *do* a new suggestion.

B) This study aims to *do* a contribution in the field of biochemistry.

C) A number of changes will be *made* in the new term.

D) The Prime Minister decided to *make* a formal apology.

E) This is a good year to *do* business in this region.

F) The committee has declared the urgent need to *make* research within this specific area.

G) Our research group has *done* a crucial discovery about stem cells.

H) This term our company should *make* a healthy profit.

Activity 2

Write 5 sentences using *do* or *make* – you can use some of the collocations from the above activity, or you could search the corpus for other collocations using *do* or *make*.

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Now share and discuss your sentences in small groups. Are all collocations used accurately?