

Catch Word #5 – **Make** – Part 1Transcript

Robin: Hello all, this is Robin

Harp: And Harp at Culips, bringing you the **Catch Word** podcast.
That's C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Robin: Each podcast we take one word and talk about its different meanings. We talk about verbs, and nouns, and even slang.

Harp: We look closely at only one word. Today's word is
...(Music)...

Robin: It's **make**. OK. Probably we're going to have to do a couple of episodes on **make**. It's pretty complicated.

Harp: Yeah, it's a big one.

Robin: But I guess we can start off with its original meaning. To **make** something.

Harp: OK. Yeah, like, I **made** a cake yesterday.

Robin: I **made** a cake yesterday. I **made** a present for Maura for her birthday.

Harp: He didn't **make** one for me though.

Robin: Yeah. Alright. OK. So **make** in that sense is to create.

Harp: To create. Exactly.

Robin: Definitely to create.

... (Music)...

Robin: Ah. There goes that sound once again. And so the first one, the first phrase we have is to **make the best of**. When can we use that?

Harp: I like to think about it when something bad happens, you are trying to **make the best of** something. So for me, I didn't get that job, but to **make the best of** the situation, I learned something.

- Robin: OK. Definitely. So you take the situation, and you take the best aspect, the best positive aspects from it. OK. And to move on, to **make a difference**.
- Harp: To **make a difference**. This is good. I like to volunteer so I think I **make a difference** in someone's life when I'm volunteering or doing something like that.
- Robin: OK. So you change someone's life in a positive way. So when you **make a difference**, you change things in a positive way. How about to **make do**?
- Harp: Hmm. I have to **make do with** little money as a student.
- Robin: They don't pay us a lot at Culips. That's a joke.
- Harp: How about **make sense of**?
- Robin: **Make sense of**. So if you don't understand the situation, for example, you know, I'm trying to **make sense of** this whole situation, you know, my girlfriend, she's been acting really strange, she hasn't been talking to me, you know. I am trying to understand it. I am trying to **make sense of** the situation.
- Harp: I think she doesn't like you anymore.
- Robin: Thanks, Harp.
- Harp: Just joking.
- Robin: Thanks for the support, Harp. You are always there. You're always, you know, that **shoulder** for me **to cry on**. Alright. And maybe that's about it for today.
- Harp: Yeah. That's good for me. Let's continue another time.
- Robin: That's it. As usual, we try to keep our episodes short. So that's all the time we have for this word this time. If you want to quiz yourself, check out our transcripts, or read our notes and explanations at Lipservice at Culips.com.
- Harp: Thanks for listening. This has been Harp
- Robin: And Robin with the **Catch Word** podcast. Take care everyone.
- Harp: Bye.

Detailed Explanation

To make vs. to do

To **make** means to create, but not always. It is not always easy because sometimes we use the verb to **do** instead. In fact, if you find **make** in the dictionary, you will see that sometimes it is defined by to **do**.

Here are some examples when **make** is used like create:

She **made** a dress.

He knows how to **make** a hammock.

There are tons of ways we use **make**. I wish I could explain them all to you here, but instead I will let you seek them out yourselves. Then, if you have any questions, you can email us.

But I will give you a small list of fixed expressions with **make** that often get confused with **do**.

To **make** a decision

To **make** time

To **make** money

To **make** the bed

BUT

To **do** the dishes

The difference between **make** and **do** is not always obvious and so you need to practice.

To make the best of

As Harp said in this episode, we use this expression when something bad has happened. So even when something bad happens, we try to find something good in it. When we try to find something good in a bad situation, we try to **make the best of** it. The full expression is "To **make the best of** a bad situation".

Harp's example was that she went for an interview and didn't get the job (something bad) but she learned something from the process, **making the best of** it.

There are a couple of other expressions with similar meanings:

Expression 1: When the world gives you lemons, you've got to make lemonade.

Lemons are sour and most people do not enjoy eating them (something not pleasant). But with the lemon juice, some sugar and some water, you can make lemonade, which is a lovely summer drink (something good, or **making the best of** it).

Expression 2: Every dark cloud has a silver lining.

This one is just like the others. Every cloud (something bad) has a silver lining (something better).

To make a difference

We have the word **difference** used in this expression, but it is not just about being different. It is about changing something for the better. Popular ways people try to **make a difference** are by donating their time or money. You can help **make a difference** by volunteering with people who need help. To volunteer is exactly like working, but you are not paid. You can also **make a difference** by giving money to organizations that you believe are doing good things, like Amnesty International or Oxfam. There are lots of different kinds of organizations like these.

You can also use it in a more literal way. To **make a difference** can also mean to **make** something different from what it is. It is most often used in the negative or question form.

Here are some examples:

I want to cut my hair, but it always looks the same. It never **makes a difference**.
Does it **make a difference** if you go to a different hairdresser?

Did it **make a difference** when you played your music really loud?
No. It only **made a difference** when I banged on the wall.
(Here I am talking about ways to get your neighbours to be quieter.)

To make do (with)

We use to **make do** when we accept something that is not the ideal. We **make do** when we talk about something as a substitute for something else.

Harp said that students have to **make do** with less money. Of course, it is not ideal to have less money, but students must accept this.

I will give you another example: It is raining and I don't have an umbrella. So, I will have to **make do with** my raincoat and hood. It is not ideal but it is the best I have at the moment.

This expression is always used with **with**, but we can also simply say, "Let's **make do**."

To make sense (of)

This one is really popular! If we can **make** a recommendation to you, learn this expression. To **make sense** means to understand. Does that **make sense**? I am asking you if you understand my explanation.

We can use it alone like:

That **makes sense**.

That doesn't **make sense** to me.

Or if we want to talk about what doesn't **make sense**, we use this expression with **of**.

I can't **make sense of** this document.

I want to **make sense of** this, but I don't know how.

I hope this explanation **makes sense**!

A shoulder to cry on

Robin mentioned to this Harp. He said that he would like to use her for **a shoulder to cry on**.

This is an expression that means your friend will be there to comfort you when he or she is sad, or crying.

Robin was making a little joke about feeling sad, so he asked if Harp would be his **shoulder to cry on**.

Quiz (see the answers at the bottom of this Lipservice)**1. In which sentence is “make” correct?**

- a) I try to make my homework when the teacher gives it to us.
- b) I always make a lot of sports.
- c) I try to make do with the money I have.
- d) I try to make cycling every weekend.

2. Which “make” expression goes in the blank?

Johnny: I went to the lecture last week and it was really tough.
Ophelia: Yeah, I was there too and I also had problems. I couldn't
_____ what he was saying.

- a) make do of
- b) make sense of
- c) make of
- d) make a difference of

3. Which “make” expression goes in the blank?

Chinua: Do you think that my hard work has not been noticed?
Nelson: Not at all! I really think that you have _____ the lives of
people.

- a) made in
- b) made sense in
- c) made possible in
- d) made a difference in

4. Which “make” expression goes in the blank?

Derrek: Tommy won't be able to play in the football match.
Mr. Walcott: Well, I guess we'll just have to _____ the situation and
try to win without him.

- a) make a difference of
- b) make sense of
- c) make the best of
- d) make of

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5. Which “make” expression best describes this situation?

Franz: I just broke up with my girlfriend. I am going to visit my friend in France now that I am single. We will relax and have a good time.

Franz is taking a trip to:

- a) make the best of the situation
- b) make to the situation
- c) make a difference in the situation
- d) make the situation

6. Which “make” expression best describes this situation?

Mr. Tanizaki said his last book was written to inspire young writers in his country. In other words, Mr. Tanizaki was trying to:

- a) make a difference
- b) make the best
- c) make sense of
- d) make possible of

Answers: 1.c 2.b 3.d 4.c 5.a 6.a

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