

Confusing English Verbs

1) to make vs to do (make/made/made)(do/did/done)

Explanation: **to make:** to create something
to do: to perform a task

Examples: I **make** a salad every evening.
He **does** his homework every day.

Exercise: Can you please help me to _____ the ironing?
If you _____ a mess, please clean it up afterwards.

Funny video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzlvYLfz3wo>

2) to notice vs to realize (both regular)

Explanation: **to notice:** a visual perception
to realize: a mental perception

Examples: He never **notices** my hair when I change it.
He never **realizes** when he is wrong.

Exercise: Do you like my new shoes? I bet that you didn't even _____ them!
Do you _____ that nobody listens to you when you speak?

3) to rise vs to raise (rise/rose/risen)("raise" is regular)

Explanation: **to rise:** to go up/get up/stand up (intransitive)
to raise: to bring up animals or children (transitive)

Examples: The sun **rises** every day, even on Mondays!
I think that **raising** children is difficult.

Exercise: When we lived on a farm, we used to _____ chickens.
What time do you _____ at the weekends?

4) to discuss vs to argue (both regular)

Explanation: **to discuss:** to converse calmly about something
to argue: to fight verbally with somebody

Examples: We need to **discuss** the new project.
Why do you always **argue** with your brother?

Exercise: I won't _____ with you – you're absolutely right!
My teacher loves to _____ bible stories with us.

5) to avoid vs to prevent (both regular)

Explanation: **to avoid:** to stay far from something, someone or somewhere
to prevent: to do something to avoid something happening

Examples: Let's go another way to **avoid** the traffic jam.
You should use contraception to **prevent** unwanted pregnancy.

Exercise: I suggest that you _____ him from now on, since he is dishonest.
You should have a vaccination to _____ the flu.

6) to remember vs to remind (both regular)

Explanation: **to remember:** a past memory
to remember: not forget to do something
to remind: to tell someone to do something

Examples: I **remember** when I was young – we lived next to a lake.
You should always **remember** to brush your teeth after meals.
Can you **remind** me to feed my fish when we get home?

Exercise: Do you _____ when we went to a football match together?
My wife always needs to _____ me to lock the front door!
Did you _____ to close the front door?

7) to hope vs to expect (both regular)

Explanation: **to hope:** a wish/desire
to expect: a prediction

Examples: I really **hope** that you get better soon!
He usually arrives late, so I **expect** that he'll arrive late again today.

Exercise: I _____ that it will rain tomorrow.
I _____ that the weather will be good for the game on Saturday.

8) to mind vs to matter (both regular)

Explanation: **to mind:** to object about something
to matter: to say that something is important

Examples: Do you **mind** if I smoke?
It doesn't **matter** if the car is dirty.

Exercise: It doesn't _____ to me if you eat or not.
I don't _____ if you want to change the channel.

9) to steal vs to rob (steal/stole/stolen)(“rob” is regular)

Explanation: **to steal:** take a small object
to rob: take something from people or places

Examples: The thief **stole** my bicycle.
The thief **robbed** the bank.

Exercise: I was _____ yesterday and my phone was _____.
A thief _____ my shop yesterday and they _____ the computer.

Suggested video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVnOQyOscAI>

Exercise: <https://www.usingenglish.com/quizzes/328.html>

10) to hear vs to listen (hear/heard/heard)(“listen” is regular)

Explanation: **to hear:** an unexpected sound reaches your ears (passive)
to listen to: to pay attention to something or someone (active)

Examples: I **heard** a dog barking in the street last night.
I love **listening to** classical music before I go to sleep.

Exercise: You must always _____ to your teacher when he speaks to you.
Did you _____ the neighbours arguing in the street last night?

11) to recommend vs to indicate (both regular)

Explanation: **to recommend:** to say that something/somebody is excellent
to indicate: to make a signal or to pass a message

Examples: I **recommend** George as an English teacher. He is fantastic!
When you turn the car you must always **indicate**.

Exercise: The coffee machine is _____ that the water tank is empty.
My teacher _____ that I buy a Portuguese/English dictionary.

Practise:

1) to make vs to do

Can you please _____ me a favour? Turn up the TV volume.
I need to _____ a shopping list for the supermarket.

2) to notice vs to realize

Did you _____ that the sky was orange last night?
I didn't _____ that it is your birthday today! Happy Birthday!

3) to rise vs to raise

My family are pig farmers, they _____ pigs.
Inflation is _____ at the moment, so food is getting more expensive.

4) to discuss vs to argue

Good morning Bob. I want to _____ our options for the future of the company.
Last night my parents _____ with each other, and today they're not speaking!

5) to avoid vs to prevent

They say that Vitamin C is good to _____ colds and flu.
Pilot: "We should change course to _____ the storm."

6) to remember vs to remind

Teacher: "Did you _____ to bring a pencil?"
I always have to _____ my grandmother to take her medicine.
These photos help me to _____ all the places where I used to live.

7) to hope vs to expect

I _____ that he will pass the test easily, because he has studied a lot.
I _____ that he will pass the test, because it's expensive to do it again.

8) to mind vs to matter

Does it _____ if I don't lock the door?
Do you _____ if I open the window?

9) to steal vs to rob

Somebody _____ my car yesterday and _____ my laptop.
Somebody _____ my house yesterday and _____ my car.

10) to hear vs to listen

I love to _____ the birds singing in the morning.
I love to _____ to music while I drive to work.

11) to recommend vs to indicate

Customer to waiter: "What do you _____?"
I think that the red light on the panel _____ a problem!