

Empty Verbs

These verbs are common verbs, such as **do, have, make, take, give, and go**, that have little independent meaning when combined with certain nouns.

Example: in the expression “*take a shower*”, the word “*shower*” is the most important:



HAVE:

- A meal, breakfast, lunch, dinner, a cup of coffee, a snack
- A chat, a conversation, a talk
- A break, a rest, vacation

Examples:

- *I had a good breakfast before I left home.*
- *We had a long talk about the problem.*

Take:

- take a look (= look)
- take a photo (= photograph)
- take a break (= rest)

Examples:

- *Please take a seat while you wait. (= sit down)*
- *Can you take a photo of us? (= photograph)*
- *Let's take a break before we continue. (= rest)*

Make:

- make a mistake (= be mistaken)
- make a decision (= decide)
- make money (= earn money)

Examples:

- *He made a mistake in the report. (= was mistaken)*
- *She needs to make a decision quickly. (= decide)*
- *They make money by selling handmade jewelry. (= earn money)*

Give:

- give advice (= advise)
- give a hand (= help)
- give a speech (= speak)

Examples:

- *Can you give me some advice? (= advise)*
- *He always gives a hand when we need help. (= helps)*
- *The mayor will give a speech tonight. (= speak)*

Do:

- do homework (= study/complete homework)
- do business (= trade/work)
- do the dishes (= wash dishes)

Examples:

- *I have to do my homework before dinner. (= complete homework)*
- *They do business with companies in Europe. (= trade/work)*
- *She usually does the dishes after dinner. (= washes the dishes)*