

LIST OF IDIOMS WITH THE VERB MAKE

idiom	meaning	example
absence makes the heart grow fonder	being away from someone you love makes you appreciate them more	Stevie is going away for five weeks, we'll see if absence makes the heart grow fonder.
can't make head nor tail of something	can't understand/make sense of something	We can't make head nor tail of our neighbours. One minute they're friendly, the next, they ignore us.
doesn't make much odds	it doesn't matter, it makes no difference	It doesn't make much odds where we go. All 3 bars have nice cocktails.
kiss and make up	reconcile after a fight/argument etc.	We've kissed and made up; the wedding is back on.
make a beeline for someone/something	go directly towards someone/something	I made a beeline for the free bar as soon as it opened.
make a fashion statement	wear bold fashionable clothes	Maureen looks stupid in those boots. She definitely isn't making a fashion statement.
make a killing	make lots of money	I converted an old barn into lots of flats, I made a killing.
make a monkey out of someone	someone does something to make another person look stupid	The non-league team made a monkey out of the premiership side by beating them 3-0.
make a mountain out of a molehill	exaggerate a minor issue	Andy is such a drama queen, he is always making mountains out of molehills.
make a night of it	spend the whole evening doing something enjoyable	We can make a night of it and go for some food after the film.
make a quick buck	earn money quickly (often dishonestly)	Dog breeders don't care about animals. All they care about is making a quick buck.
make a rod for one's own back	do something now that will cause problems in the future	He's making a rod for his own back by letting his kids play on the tablet all night.
make a song and dance about something	be excessive/unnecessary and exaggerate/dramatize things	My kids always make a song and dance when I make them eat vegetables.
make do with	manage with limited or inadequate resources	I forgot to buy carrots, we'll have to make do with peas and broccoli.
make ends meet	earn enough money to survive	I need another job so I can make ends meet.
make eyes at	make suggestive eye contact with someone, flirt	I made eyes at her all night, but she left with another guy.
make hay while the sun shines	make the most of an opportunity while you have the chance	I'll make hay while the sun shines and listen to all my favourite cheesy songs. My husband won't be back until the evening.
make mincemeat out of someone/something	thoroughly defeat	Jeffreys made mincemeat out of Saunders in the ring.
make one's bed and lie in it	face the consequences of one's actions	I told you not to use those cheap plumbers, you made your bed.
make one's blood boil	makes you very angry	It makes our blood boil to think he was living under our roof and stealing from us.

idiom	meaning	example
make one's mouth water	your mouth is full of saliva because of the smell/taste of food	The smell of my Grandma's cooking always made my mouth water.
make oneself at home	enter a place and behave as if you lived there	You can stay at mine as long as you like, just make yourself at home.
make someone's day	make an ordinary day better/more memorable/more pleasurable	Pop in and see grandad on his birthday. You'll really make his day.
make the grade	reach the desired standard	I wish him all the luck in the world, but I don't think he'll make the grade.
make time for	reserve time to do something	I'm glad you made time for your grandma before she died.
make up for lost time	spend more time doing something/work faster to catch up	The machines were down for an hour, we need to make up for lost time.
make waves	cause trouble or make an impression	The boss told me not to make any more waves or I'll be fired.
make/earn a living	earn money to support yourself and/or your family	I'm quitting school to start earning a living. I need to support my family.
one swallow doesn't make a summer	one good result doesn't mean a good overall situation	Sales were up 5% on last month, but one swallow doesn't make a summer.
that makes two of us	you agree with or are in the same position as the speaker	You hate David's brother? That makes two of us.
you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs	you can't achieve something without having bad effects	Everyone hates me now I'm the boss. You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs.

