

A

Alternatives to *do* and *get*

You can improve your written style by using alternative collocations instead of *do* and *get*.

expression with <i>do/get</i>	alternatives
do an exam	I have to sit/take an exam in biology at the end of term.
do research, do a research project	Our class carried out / conducted a research project into the history of our school.
do a course	I decided to enrol on / take a course in Computer programming.
do a degree/diploma	She studied for / took a degree in Engineering.
do a subject (e.g. law)	I studied/took history and economics in high school.
do an essay/assignment	All students have to write an essay/assignment at the end of term.
do a lecture/talk	Professor Parkinson gave a lecture on the American Civil War.
get a degree/diploma	He obtained / was awarded a diploma in Town Planning in 2010.
get a grade	Her essay received / was given an A-grade.
get a qualification	You will need to obtain/acquire a qualification in social work.
get an education	The country is poor; only 27% of children receive a basic education .

Common mistakes

Don't confuse **pass an exam** with **sit/take an exam**. *Pass* means to be successful in an exam or test. Say 'I **did** my homework', NOT 'I **made** my homework.'

B

Look at these conversations between a teacher and students. Note how the teacher uses more formal collocations to repeat what each student says.

Student: Do we have to **go to all the lectures** to **do the course** or just yours?

Teacher: You must **attend all the lectures** to **complete the course**.

Student: Excuse me. Where will next week's **class be**? In this room?

Teacher: No. Next week's **class will be held** in Room 405.

Student: When do we have to **give you our essays**?

Teacher: You have to **hand in your essays** on Friday.

Student: When do we have to **send in our university applications**?

Teacher: You have to **submit your application** by December 1st.

Student: What do I have to do if I want to **leave the course**?

Teacher: If you want to **withdraw from the course**, you have to go to the College Office.



C

More collocations connected with study and learning

Do you **keep a** vocabulary **notebook**? It's a good way of recording new collocations.

I did the **first draft** of my essay last week and the **final draft** this week. I have to hand it in tomorrow.

Then the teacher **gives us feedback** after about a week.

We don't have exams at my school. We have **continuous assessment**. [system where the quality of a student's work is judged by pieces of course work and not by one final examination]

The local technical college **provides training** for young people in a variety of professions.

After secondary school, 30% of the population go on to **higher/tertiary education**, and 20% of adults do some sort of **further education** course during their lives.

Does your government **recognise** foreign **qualifications** for school teachers?

Exercises

28.1 Replace all the uses of *do* or *get* in this paragraph with more interesting words.

I have three daughters. The oldest one did a degree in Economics. She got her bachelor's degree last year and is now doing some research on taxation laws in different countries. The second one is doing a course at Newcastle University. She's doing History. She loves it, though she says she has to do far too many assignments. My youngest daughter is still at school. She's doing her school-leaving exams in the summer. She'll go to university next year if she gets good enough grades in her exams. She wants to do Sociology and then get a social work qualification. My daughters are all getting a much better education than I ever had.



28.2 Complete these questions.

- 1 What homework do we have to tonight?
- 2 In which month do students usually their final exams in your country?
- 3 Who do we have to our essays in to?
- 4 Who is today's lecture on Shakespeare?
- 5 What do we need to do if we want to from the course?
- 6 In which room is the translation class going to be
- 7 Have you done the first of your essay yet?
- 8 Do you prefer exams or continuous
- 9 Do you always to all your lectures?
- 10 Does the college training in computer skills?

28.3 Choose the correct collocation.

- 1 I'm happy to say that you have all *sat / taken / passed* your maths test.
- 2 Will the teacher *give / provide / make* us some feedback on our essays?
- 3 The university *agrees / recognises / takes* the school-leaving exams of most other countries.
- 4 It isn't compulsory to *assist / attend / listen* all the lectures at this university.
- 5 How long will it take you to *complete / carry out / fulfil* your degree?
- 6 You must *submit / send / write* your application in before the end of June.
- 7 Several students have decided to *withdraw / go / leave* the course this year.
- 8 I want you all to *write / hold / keep* a vocabulary notebook.

28.4 Answer these questions about education.

- 1 At what age do children in your country sit their final school exams?
- 2 How long does it take in your country to do a degree in Medicine?
- 3 Give one advantage you think continuous assessment has over traditional exams.
- 4 What sort of feedback might a teacher give a student who has just given a presentation in class?
- 5 Give one advantage for a learner of English of doing homework.
- 6 What advice about keeping a vocabulary notebook would you give to someone starting to learn English?
- 7 What is the difference between further education and higher or tertiary education?
- 8 What would you expect to be the difference between the first draft of an essay and the final draft?