

Describing Products

Look at these sentences:

- This shampoo washes the dirt out of your carpets!
- This pen writes for a hundred miles!
- This camera takes great pictures!
- This mascara makes your lashes longer and thicker!

*These sentences describe what the product does. They are **active** sentences.*

- These cars are designed by artists and built by robots.
- Our electrical connections are plated with pure gold.
- This razor blade is made with titanium steel.
- This picture was painted by Picasso.

*These sentences describe the processes for making the product. They are **passive** sentences.*

Look at the phrases we use to describe the ingredients (raw materials) used in a product and the process of making it.

- This handbag is made of crocodile skin.
- This cup is made of plastic.
- This ashtray was made out of an artillery shell.
- He built a house which was made out of Lego bricks.

***made of / made out of** - These phrases are used when we can see the original materials used for making the object.*

- This cake is made from flour, eggs butter and sugar.
- Bronze is made from copper and tin.
- Plastic is made from petroleum.
- Copper sulphate is made from copper and sulphuric acid.
- XXX brandy is made from champagne grapes.

***made from** - is used when we cannot see the original ingredients*

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- This pasta is made with fresh eggs.
- Our yoghurt is made with fresh fruit.

made with - is a phrase used to mention an important ingredient (but not usually the largest ingredient) in the product

- Our loudspeakers are made in Norway.
- This table was made in Sweden.
- These jeans were made in Turkey.
- This coffee was grown, picked, dried, roasted in Costa Rica.

made in - is a phrase for describing the origin of the product.

- Fabergé made this beautiful decorated egg for the Tsar's daughter.
- Michelangelo was making statues for the tomb of the Lorenzo de Medici.
- I'm making a sweater for my husband.
- She's making a cake for my birthday.

made something for someone - is a phrase for describing the sponsor or intended recipient of a product.

made something for a reason - can also be used to describe the reason for making something.

- He made his scarf into a sling for his broken arm.
- He made the remains of the chicken into a delicious soup.
- She made the knitted squares of cloth into warm blankets.

made something into - is frequently used for describing a process of transformation.

Exercises

Underline the appropriate words in these sentences.

1. A football is made |~~of~~| for | in | leather.
2. Leather is made | with | from | by | animal skins.
3. FIAT cars are made | from | in | by | Italy.
4. All our cakes are made | in | into | with | fresh cream.
5. *David Copperfield* was written | from | by | for | Charles Dickens.
6. It was decorated with flowers which were made | into | out of | for | sea shells!
7. This ice cream is made | with | out of | of | vanilla.
8. My wedding ring is made | with | of | by | gold.
9. Paper is made | into | from | by | wood from trees.
10. This soup is made | in | with | after | chicken and asparagus.
11. This photograph was taken | by | in | at | Thailand.
12. These songs are sung | in | of | by | Chilean singers.
13. I collected some wild flowers | of | from | for | my husband.
14. I've made some cakes | for | at | by | your birthday party.
15. The gardener made a building site | for | into | up | a beautiful garden.
16. This palace was built | by | with | for | the President.
17. Michelangelo carved the statue | in to | with | out of | Carrarra marble.
18. This vodka was made | of | by | in | Ukraine.
19. Did you hear the new song | of | from | by | the Atomic Kittens?
20. The winning goal was scored | from | with | by | David Beckham.

Read and write

What are little girls made of?
Sugar and spice,
And all things nice,
That's what little girls are made of.

What are little boys made of?
Slug and snails,
And puppy dogs' tails,
That's what little boys are made of.

Traditional English children's rhyme.

Write a similar rhyme to describe women, men, kids, or any other group you choose.

Describing possessions

Look in your pockets, purse, wallet, briefcase, handbag or school bag and make statements about:

- a. what things are made of*
- b. who things were made by*
- c. people who things were made for*
- d. places where things were made*

How many different statements can you make about your possessions?

Look at your partner's possessions. Ask similar questions.

Describe:

- a. the smallest thing in your house.*
- b. the most expensive thing in your house.*
- c. the thing (not person) which you love best in your house.*

Describing products

This worksheet concentrates on phrasal verbs with *make*. Learners frequently make mistakes with these verb phrases. There is no trick to learning to use these phrases. Students just need lots of practice.

The worksheet contains both closed-ended practice exercises as well as suggestions for open-ended creative tasks.

Answers

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