

Difference between MADE OF / MADE FROM / MADE WITH / MADE OUT OF

In this lesson, we'll explore the use of prepositions with "made": of, from, out of, and with. We'll uncover why we say a table is "made of wood" but bread is "made from flour." Through examples and exercises, you'll learn to choose the right preposition for describing materials, manufacturing processes, and ingredients. Whether you're talking about a gold ring, recycled plastic, or a lovingly prepared meal, this guide will help you express yourself more accurately in English. Ready to master these prepositions?



Introductory Quiz

If you haven't already watched the video lesson on YouTube, this will be the perfect quiz to see what you already know about using the prepositions **of**, **from**, **out of** and **with** with the verb 'made'.

See if you can complete these 4 sentences:

1. My wedding ring is **made** _____ gold.
2. Paper is **made** _____ wood.
3. This bag was **made** _____ recycled plastic bottles.
4. Are the croissants **made** _____ real butter?

I won't reveal the answers just yet. Instead, we'll explore each preposition in detail on the following pages, discussing why we use different ones in various contexts.



● made of

My wedding ring is made of gold.

We normally use '**made of**' when you can still **clearly see the material that was used to create the object**. Here are some common materials.

wood		cardboard	
stone		glass	
plastic		rubber	

When you look at an object, if you can see the material in its original state, use **made of**. Let's practise. Here are some examples:

- The coat hangers are **made of** wood.
 - Don't forget to use '**are made of**' with plural nouns.
- The house is **made of** stone.
- The robot is **made of** metal.

We often **place adjectives before the material** to describe it in more detail. For example, I might say -

- The table is **made of solid wood**'.
 - This means it's 100% wood without any spaces inside.

Or you might hear -

- The windows were **made of frosted glass**.
 - This is glass which isn't transparent - maybe the type your bathroom window is made of so nobody can peek in!



We normally use 'made of' in a literal way, like we've just seen. But be careful! You might also hear it used like this:

- We can't go on holiday again this year! We're not **made of** money!

'**Made of money**' in this context means 'very rich'. If you say, 'I'm not made of money', you're saying you aren't rich, not that you aren't made of cash and coins!

Here are a couple more figurative expressions:

- **what sb. is made of** - a person's true character, especially under pressure
"The challenging project revealed **what she was made of** - she stayed calm and focused throughout."
- **to be made of sterner stuff** - to have exceptional strength of character or resilience
"Despite the setback, John didn't give up. He's **made of sterner stuff** than most."

● made from

Paper is made from wood.

We normally use '**made from**' when a material has gone through some kind of **manufacturing process**. You can't usually see the original material or materials in the new object that's been created. We take natural materials like wood and oil or sugar and corn and transform them into something new.



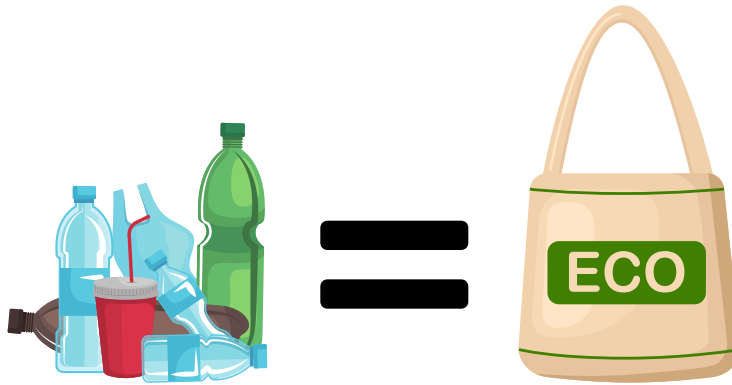
Here are some examples.

- This essential oil is **made from** Bulgarian rose petals.
- Chocolate is **made from** cocoa beans.
- This wine is **made from** a blend of grapes.

● **made out of**

This bag has been made out of recycled plastic bottles.

When we take a product which **has *already* been manufactured and then transform it into something new**, we usually use the prepositions '**out of**'.



We started off with a bunch of old plastic bottles, and because we care about sustainability, we decided to upcycle them and create a bag. Sometimes, you can recognise the original object in the new one and sometimes, you can't. But there's often a magical transformation from an object with one purpose to an object with a new purpose!

Here are some more examples.

- Look at this dress I **made out of** an old pair of curtains.
- The artist **made** a sculpture **out of** an old car, a mop and several saucepans.

Before we move on, I have to say that if you mix up these prepositions, people will still understand what you're trying to say! I've heard loads of people say:

- **This table is made out of wood.**

or

- **My bag is made of plastic bottles.**

Please don't let worrying about these prepositions get in the way of your communication!

● made with

Are the croissants made with real butter?

We often use '**made with**' to describe the ingredients we use to cook something. For example:

- The dish can be **made with** fresh or frozen spinach.
- This mayonnaise is vegan-friendly - it isn't **made with** eggs!
- Here's your breakfast, darling. It's been **made with** lots of love!

We can also use '**made with**' more figuratively to talk about the love, care and attention we've put into something. After all, these things are important ingredients, too!





Review

So, let's quickly recap before you complete your final test on the next page.

- We use **made of** wood, metal, glass and so on when you can recognise an object's material.
 - I can't believe he wanted a tooth **made of** gold!
- Use **made from** when the material has undergone a manufacturing process.
 - These bricks are **made from** sand and clay.
- **Made out of** is used when we transform an object into something different, often with a new use or purpose.
 - Can you believe she **made** this sofa **out of** an old bathtub?!
- Use **made with** to list the ingredients used to cook something.
 - This smoothie has been **made with** avocado, apples and a squeeze of lemon.

Answers:

1) (c) 2) a) 3) b) 4) a) 5) c) 6) b) 7) c) 8) a)



Activity

Choose the correct answer for each question.

1. "Made of money" is a literal expression.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. Our new packaging is made _____ cornflour and bamboo.
 - a. of
 - b. from
 - c. with
3. These shoes are _____ old tyres.
 - a. made of
 - b. made from
 - c. made out of
4. "Made with" is often used for listing cooking ingredients.
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. The scientist discovered that the meteor was primarily _____ iron.
 - a. made of
 - b. made from
 - c. made with
6. She has an allergy to fake metals, so are you sure this is _____ 100% silver?
 - a. made of
 - b. made from
 - c. made with
7. Which sentence is correct?
 - a. All of our bread is made from love.
 - b. All of our bread is made with love.
 - c. All of our bread is made of love.
8. Their children built a fort _____ old blankets and chairs.
 - a. made of
 - b. made from
 - c. made out of

Answers:

c (8) b (2) b (3) c (4) a (5) a (6) b (7) b (8) c

