

LISTENING AND GRAMMAS: Appear, Seem and Look

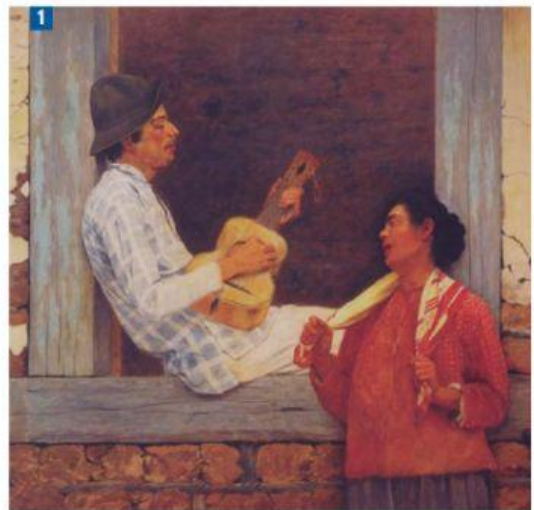
1. Listen to a museum guide's descriptions and fill in the blanks

This oil on canvas, *The Guitar Player*, _____ painted by Almeida Júnior in _____. This painter was _____ depicting the rural life of Brazilians in the 1900s. His work _____ the people as they were and it _____ the simple and somehow sad life they led, as you can _____ by their looks in this picture: the woman is _____ simple clothes and the man is _____ a rustic hat, a checked shirt and white pants. He is _____ a folk _____.

The setting is the window of what **seems** _____ be an old house as you can see by the uncovered walls.

It **looks** _____ the end of a day's work, when people just _____ together to _____.

The pinkish color of the wall and of the clothes **looks** _____ if they are lit by the sunset. The woman **seems** _____ be **singing to** a sad or nostalgic tune, while the man just _____ **to be** laid back.



This other oil on canvas was _____ in 1899 too.

It _____ called *Longing*. It also _____ life of simple people as you can see by the walls and floor as well as the _____ hat in this picture. The woman _____ the window is wearing simple clothes and flat _____. She **looks** _____ a widow, as she is wearing dark, plain clothes. She _____ as though she is _____ a letter or document that may have sad news or _____. She _____ sad as you can see tears in her eyes.

Also, she **seems to** _____ suffocated feelings since she is covering her mouth with her shawl. Her hair _____ **to be a bit disheveled** which gives the impression that she has forgotten about herself.

Almeida Júnior is famous _____ being a pioneer in regionalist paintings of naturalist style. He lived in the rural area for a long period of his life and **seemed to know** well the reality he portrayed. These two pieces _____ painted the year he was prematurely dead, stabbed by his cousin who had just found out he was having an affair with his cousin's wife.

2. Match the sentence beginnings with the sentence endings from the museum guide's descriptions. Then match the sentences with the paintings.

- a She looks like
- b She looks
- c She looks as

- 1 a bit nostalgic.
- 2 if she has suffocated feelings.
- 3 a widow.

look, seem, appear

look/seem + adjective
look like + noun
look/seem as if/though + verb phrase
seem/appear + to be

APPEAR	SEEM	LOOK
[əˈpiə] Appear is used to describe an observable condition, and it can be followed by an adjective or an infinitive: • She appears tired. • She appears to be tired. 	[ˈsi:m] Seem is used to show a perception by the speaker. It can be followed by an adjective or an infinitive: • He didn't seem interested. • Their story seems to be true. Seems + as if / like: • It seems as if / like we are never going to pass this exam.	[ˈlʊk] Look is used to describe an observable condition, and it is followed by an adjective, not by an infinitive:  • That cake looks delicious! Looks + as if / like: • It looks as if it's going to rain. • It looks like we're going to fail.

look / seem + adjective

The verb **look** refers to the sense of sight and is followed by an adjective. *He **looks** great for his age.* The verbs for the other senses follow the same pattern (*She **sounds** nice. It **tastes** great. It **feels** cold. That **smells** good.*)

look like + noun

This means *resemble* and is usually followed by a noun. *He **looks like** Brad Pitt.* (= He resembles Brad Pitt.)

look / seem as if / though + verb phrase

You use this to describe what something seems like. The verb in the phrase can be in any tense. *It **looks as if** it fell over. / She always **seems as though** she's going to cry.*

seem / appear + to be

These verbs help to describe your understanding of a situation. They can be followed by an adjective or noun phrase. *She **seems** sad. / He **appears to be** in trouble.*

3. Look at the two paintings again and answer the following questions

The Guitar Player, 1899

- Describe the woman's clothes.
- What is the man wearing?
- What is the man holding?
- There's something in the woman's hands - what is it?
- What color is the man's shirt?

Longing, 1899

- Describe the woman's face.
- What is she wearing?
- What is she holding in her left hand?
- What kind of room is it?
- What's hanging at the top of the painting?

a The woman is wearing _____ clothes.

b The man is wearing a _____ hat, a _____ shirt and white _____.

c He is holding a _____.

d It's a _____.

e Checked _____ shirt.

a She **looks** _____ (tears in her eyes).

b She is wearing _____ clothes and _____ shoes. She **looks like** a _____, as she is wearing _____, plain clothes.

c She is holding a _____ or document that may have _____ news or _____.

d A simple living room.

e A country _____.