85 The senses

A The five basic senses


sight


hearing


taste


smell


touch

To express it another way, the ability to see, hear, taste, smell and feel.

B Sense verbs with adjectives

You **look** tired this evening. [from what I can see]
That man **sounded foreign**. [from another country, from what I could hear]
This cake **tastes** a bit strange.
Fresh bread **smells** wonderful.
This shirt **feels damp**. [slightly wet, often in an unpleasant way]

Language help

The verbs above can all be used as nouns.
*I like **the look of** this hotel.* [the appearance of it]
*I love **the sound of** his voice.*

C Sense verbs with *like* or *as if/though*

We can describe things using sense verbs with **like** + noun or **as if / though** + clause, but *not* **like** + adjective (NOT She looks ~~like~~ nice). When we use **like** + noun, we are often describing how similar two things are.

Have you ever had a nectarine? They **look like** peaches.
Did you hear that noise? It **sounded like** an alarm.
That shampoo **smells like** coconut. (also **smells of** coconut)
Don't you think this material **feels like** silk?


nectarine


alarm

That boy **looks as if** he's trying to get over the wall.
I spoke to Isobel. It **sounded as though** they had a good time on holiday.


coconut


silk

Language help

We also use **seem** and **appear** to describe a sense or feeling about someone or something, after we have seen them, talked to them, etc. Before **like** + noun, we usually use **seem**.
*I saw Will and he **seemed/appeared** quite happy.* *The shop **appears/seems** to be very busy.*
*Amelia said she wanted to travel a bit, which **seems like** a good idea.*

D Verbs easily confused

If you **look** [look carefully] at the map, you can **see** [are able to see] the church on the left.
They've been **watching** that man for weeks. [paying attention to something, often for a long time]
He ran into me because he wasn't **looking** [paying attention].
I **watched**/**saw** a film on TV. I **saw** a film at the cinema. (NOT I ~~watched~~ a film at the cinema.)
I **heard** [was able to hear] what she said but I wasn't **listening** [paying attention].
Don't **touch** the oven [put your hand on it]. It's hot!
Just **feel** my feet [put your hand on them to discover something about them]. Aren't they cold?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

85.1 **Cover the opposite page. What are the five basic senses?**

sight ....

85.2 **Choose the correct word to complete the sentences.**

1 I was very angry with Tom – he just wasn't *hearing / listening to* what I was saying.
2 I was *listening to / hearing* the radio when I *listened to / heard* a terrible noise outside.
3 She turned up the volume but I still couldn't *listen to / hear* it.
4 There's a good film on at the cinema. Have you *watched / seen* it?
5 Quick. Come and *watch / look at* this man walking by.
6 We *watched / looked at* the birds while they were eating food from the bird table.
7 If you stand near the fire, you can *touch / feel* how hot it is.
8 You mustn't *touch / feel* the paintings in the museum.
9 If you *see / look* carefully, you can *look / see* how the man does the magic trick.
10 Anya wants to get a parrot, which *seems / appears* like a strange thing to do.

85.3 **Complete the sentences with a different sense verb and a word from the box. Add *like* where necessary.**

~~delicious~~	a church	an alarm	very nice
damp	coconut	calm and relaxed	silk

1 Abigail has just taken the cakes out of the oven and they *smell delicious* .....
2 The sheets on her bed looked expensive, and when I touched them, they ..... .
3 I could see something quite tall in the distance. It ..... .
4 When I heard the noise I jumped out of bed because it ..... .
5 Have you tried these biscuits? They ..... .
6 I've just met my new class; they ..... .
7 I don't want to sit on the grass. It ..... .
8 I saw her before the exam and she ..... .

85.4 **Complete the middle part of the sentences.**

1 Alexei said that Lola was doing well, so it *sounds as if/though* ..... she'll pass the exam.
2 Erin told me about the accident. It ..... it was quite serious.
3 Put your hand on the radiator. Does it ..... it's getting warm?
4 I've just spoken to Tom. He ..... he's got a cold.
5 Have you tried the soup? It ..... it needs a bit more salt to me.
6 Is that your little boy on the floor? It ..... he's fallen over.
7 Alina didn't ask any questions. It ..... she wasn't interested.

85.5 Over to you

Complete the sentences about your own likes and dislikes. If possible, ask someone else the same questions.

I love the smell of ..... .
I hate the smell of ..... .
I love the sound of ..... .
I hate the sound of ..... .
I love the taste of ..... .
I hate the taste of ..... .

LIVEWORKSHEETS