

## 32 I can describe the senses

### A Seeing and hearing

Example	Meaning
Look <sup>1</sup> carefully, and you can see the bridge over the river. From here it looks <sup>2</sup> very small.	look <sup>1</sup> turn your eyes to sth and pay attention to it. see know or notice sth using your eyes. look <sup>2</sup> seem from what you can see.
We watched TV for an hour.	watch sth look at sth for some time to see what happens.
He appears <sup>1</sup> to be very happy. A dog appeared <sup>2</sup> from behind a tree.	appear <sup>1</sup> seem. appear <sup>2</sup> If sth appears, you suddenly begin to see it. OPP disappear.
The children stared at the man with the long red hair.	stare at sb/sth look at sb/sth for a long time without moving your eyes.
Jay always notices what I'm wearing. He's very observant.	notice sth see sth and be aware of it. observant good at noticing things.
He glanced at me and smiled.	glance at sb/sth look quickly at sb/sth.
A I can hear something. B It sounds like a child crying.	hear sth receive sounds with your ears without trying. sound like sth make a noise that is like sth.
She listens to the radio a lot.	listen pay attention to sth you hear, often for a long time.
I overheard them in the bank.	overhear sb hear other people's conversation by accident.
I'm sorry. I didn't quite catch what you said.	catch sth hear or understand what sb is saying; usually used when you don't hear or understand sth.

#### spotlight can + sense verbs

We don't use see, hear, smell, or taste in the continuous tenses; we often use can (as in the examples above).  
I can see two boats in this photo. (NOT I see or I'm seeing two boats.)

#### 1 Circle the correct answer.

- Can you hear/listen to that noise?
- 1 Did you notice/watch the colour of her eyes?
- 2 I can't see/look at anything from here.
- 3 Don't look/watch behind you.
- 4 How long did you see/watch TV for?
- 5 I glanced at/stared Julia.
- 6 I see/can see something in your eye.
- 7 I overheard/caught a funny story on the bus.
- 8 What can you listen/hear?

#### 2 Complete the sentences with a suitable word.

- When I told them, I noticed that they both looked very surprised.
- 1 She said her name but I'm afraid I didn't \_\_\_\_\_ what it was.
- 2 I \_\_\_\_\_ hear a bird singing. It \_\_\_\_\_ like a blackbird.
- 3 Why is that man \_\_\_\_\_ at me? Have I done something wrong?
- 4 I spoke to him about the exam. He doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ to be nervous.
- 5 Did you see Nadia last night? I thought she \_\_\_\_\_ ill.
- 6 I \_\_\_\_\_ at my watch and realized it was time to go.
- 7 Sally always notices if I change my hairstyle. She's very \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 A minute ago she was here, then she \_\_\_\_\_. I don't know where she is now.

## B Smelling, tasting, and touching 🎧

Word	Example	Meaning
smell sth	I can <b>smell</b> lunch ...	notice or recognize sth using your nose.
smell like sth	... it <b>smells like</b> fish.	have a smell like the smell of sth / sth else.
stink INF	This towel <b>stinks</b> . I must wash it.	have a horrible smell.
flavour	They sell 30 <b>flavours</b> of ice cream.	the sensation of sth in your mouth (e.g. a chocolate/strawberry <b>flavour</b> ).
taste	Try this wine. It <b>tastes</b> very strange.	have a particular flavour.
salty	The soup is very <b>salty</b> .	having the taste of or containing a lot of salt.
bland	This cheese is quite <b>bland</b> .	without much flavour.
touch sth	When I <b>touched</b> the back wall ...	put your fingers on sth.
feel feel like sth	... it <b>felt</b> a bit <b>damp</b> (= a little wet).	give a sensation of or like sth when touched (e.g. it <i>feels</i> hot, it <i>feels like</i> wood).
press sth	If you <b>press</b> that button, you get a ticket.	put your hand or finger on sth firmly. 
grab sth	He <b>grabbed</b> my mobile and ran off.	take sth with a sudden movement.
tap sb/sth	Someone <b>tapped</b> me on the arm.	touch sb/sth quickly with your hands or feet.
rub sth	I <b>rubbed</b> the book with a soft cloth to get the dirt off.	move your hand firmly backwards and forwards over the surface of sth.

### 4 Replace the underlined phrase with a single word that has the same meaning.

- Most cities such as London have a traffic problem. like \_\_\_\_\_
- This blanket has a horrible smell. \_\_\_\_\_
  - My towel still feels a little wet. \_\_\_\_\_
  - The soup is without much flavour. \_\_\_\_\_
  - The film was similar to his others. \_\_\_\_\_
  - I put my hand on the radiator and it felt cold. \_\_\_\_\_
  - She moved her hand firmly over her leg. \_\_\_\_\_

#### spotlight like

**Like** can mean 'similar to' and it can mean 'such as':

*This flower smells **like** honey.*  
(The flower has a smell similar to that of honey.)

*Some people **like** Maggie live alone.* (Maggie is one example.)

### 5 Complete the sentences.

- You don't need salt. It's already very salty. \_\_\_\_\_
- The persimmon is a strange fruit. It looks \_\_\_\_\_ a tomato but doesn't taste \_\_\_\_\_ one.
  - They were both \_\_\_\_\_ their feet to the music.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ the button if you want the receptionist to come.
  - Be careful – don't \_\_\_\_\_ the door. The paint is still wet.
  - He \_\_\_\_\_ me on the shoulder and asked me to move my head.
  - The policeman \_\_\_\_\_ the thief's arm and pushed him to the ground.
  - When I came downstairs, I could \_\_\_\_\_ the steak frying; it was wonderful.
  - You had ice cream, didn't you? What \_\_\_\_\_ did you have? ~ Strawberry, but it didn't \_\_\_\_\_ like strawberry.