

32 I can describe the senses

A Seeing and hearing

Example	Meaning
Look ¹ carefully, and you can see the bridge over the river. From here it looks ² very small.	look ¹ turn your eyes to sth and pay attention to it. see know or notice sth using your eyes. look ² 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 ¹ to be very happy. A dog appeared ² from behind a tree.	appear ¹ seem. appear ² 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 <i>don't</i> 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 realize what it was.

2 I heard a bird singing. It sounded like a blackbird.

3 Why is that man staring at me? Have I done something wrong?

4 I spoke to him about the exam. He doesn't seem to be nervous.

5 Did you see Nadia last night? I thought she was ill.

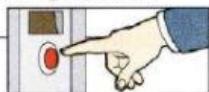
6 I looked at my watch and realized it was time to go.

7 Sally always notices if I change my hairstyle. She's very observant.

8 A minute ago she was here, then she disappeared. I don't know where she is now.

B Smelling, tasting, and touching

Word	Example	Meaning
smell sth	I can smell lunch ...	notice or recognize sth using your nose.
smell like sth	... it smells like fish.	have a smell like the smell of sth / sth else.
stink <small>inf</small>	This towel stinks . I must wash it.	have a horrible smell.
flavour	They sell 30 flavours of ice cream.	the sensation of sth in your mouth (e.g. a <i>chocolate/strawberry flavour</i>).
taste	Try this wine. It tastes very strange.	have a particular flavour.
salty	The soup is very salty .	having the taste of or containing a lot of salt.
bland	This cheese is quite bland .	without much flavour.
touch sth	When I touched the back wall ...	put your fingers on sth.
feel feel like sth	... it felt a bit damp (= a little wet).	give a sensation of or like sth when touched (e.g. <i>it feels hot, it feels like wood</i>).
press sth	If you press that button, you get a ticket.	put your hand or finger on sth firmly.
grab sth	He grabbed my mobile and ran off.	take sth with a sudden movement.
tap sb/sth	Someone tapped me on the arm.	touch sb/sth quickly with your hands or feet.
rub sth	I rubbed 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
- 1 This blanket has a horrible smell.
- 2 My towel still feels a little wet.
- 3 The soup is without much flavour.
- 4 The film was similar to his others.
- 5 I put my hand on the radiator and it felt cold.
- 6 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.
- 1 The persimmon is a strange fruit. It looks like a tomato but doesn't taste like one.
- 2 They were both swinging their feet to the music.
- 3 Press the button if you want the receptionist to come.
- 4 Be careful – don't open the door. The paint is still wet.
- 5 He thumped me on the shoulder and asked me to move my head.
- 6 The policeman grasped the thief's arm and pushed him to the ground.
- 7 When I came downstairs, I could smell the steak frying; it was wonderful.
- 8 You had ice cream, didn't you? What flavour did you have? ~ Strawberry, but it didn't taste like strawberry.