

## ADVANCED 3 UNIT 6

### GRAMMAR

#### Part 1: Verbs of the senses

You can talk about your senses in two ways:

- to refer to abilities or sensations (**stative**)
- to refer to voluntary actions (**dynamic**)

These verbs can be used with **both** a stative and a dynamic meaning: see, hear, feel, sense, smell, taste, look.

These verbs are always dynamic: listen, touch.

#### can, could, and be able to

Stative verbs of the senses are often used with can, could, or be able to: I would love to be able to hear as well as I could when I was younger.

#### Progressive forms

Verbs of the senses with stative meanings are not usually used in progressive forms. I can see the car over there. (NOT I'm seeing the car over there.)

#### Meaning changes

When you use see, hear, feel, sense, smell, or taste in progressive forms, the meaning often changes: I can't see that sign very well. What does it say? (see referring to the sight) I'm seeing the doctor tomorrow about my back. (see = meet) I think I can taste salt in this. (taste referring to sense of taste) They're tasting the dessert to see if they like it. (taste = testing)

#### Progressive forms can also be used to talk about

temporary states: I'm feeling good. / I'm hearing the music.

**1 Complete** the statements with the correct form of some of the verbs in the box.

Some of the verbs are used more than once. you may need to add a modal verb or a negative.

feel hear listen look see sense smell taste touch watch

a If you're blind, if you \_\_\_\_\_, then although you can lead a full life and all that, I think it does make you more vulnerable.

b I would really hate it if I \_\_\_\_\_ what things or people looked like.

c I read an article about a man who went deaf and then his hearing was restored to him, and he talked about how isolating it can be if you \_\_\_\_\_

d He really missed \_\_\_\_\_ to music, that was the worst part, he said. That, and not being able to \_\_\_\_\_ his wife's voice.

e I \_\_\_\_\_, the palm trees, \_\_\_\_\_ the food, \_\_\_\_\_ the sun on my skin

f they \_\_\_\_\_ the vibrations of the drums, even though they \_\_\_\_\_ them.

g I can \_\_\_\_\_ things that nobody else even notices. For example, when someone cooks for me, I can tell which spices were used.

Choose the correct alternative.

- a I think my eyesight is failing. I **can't see / I'm not seeing** as well as I used to.
- b A: **Can I hear / Am I hearing** things, or is there a pig in your bathroom?  
B: No! It's the fan. It makes a strange noise.
- c Hey, Greg, **can you taste / are you tasting** this for me? I'm not sure if I need to add more salt.
- d I sat in the backyard **hearing / listening to** the birds singing in the trees.
- e Are you on YouTube? What are you **seeing / watching**? Anything interesting?
- f We used to live above a café. We **could always smell / were always smelling** fresh bread and coffee in the morning. Delicious!
- g **I could hear / 've heard** some strange things about the new boss. Are they true?