

Perception verbs: Bare Infinitive or Gerund?

Verbs of perception: see, hear, smell, feel, watch, look at, listen to, notice, observe ...

The Rule:

Τα παραπάνω ρήματα αντίληψης μπορούν να συνταχθούν τόσο με gerund όσο και με bare infinitive, με μικρή διαφοροποίηση στο νόημα:

Gerund: Για πράξεις που βρίσκονται σε εξέλιξη όσο τις βλέπουμε (see), ακούμε (hear), παρατηρούμε (observe) κλπ. Η χρήση gerund υποδηλώνει πως η πράξη βρισκόταν ήδη σε εξέλιξη όταν εμείς την αντιληφθήκαμε και συχνά δίνει έμφαση στη διάρκειά της.

e.g. I **saw** Mary **greeting** Professor Grey. (The greeting was already in progress when I saw it)

Bare infinitive: Για πράξεις που ξεκινούν και ολοκληρώνονται όσο τις βλέπουμε (see), ακούμε (hear), παρατηρούμε (observe) κλπ. Η χρήση bare infinitive υποδηλώνει πως η πράξη έγινε αντιληπτή από την αρχή ως το τέλος της. Χρησιμοποιείται και για πράξεις στιγμιαίες.

e.g. I **saw** Mary **greet** Professor Grey. (I saw the whole greeting from the beginning to the end)

Extra Tip: Το gerund δίνει τη σημασία του **while** (ενώ).

e.g. I **heard** my brother **singing** in the bathroom. (I heard my brother while he was singing)

I **heard** my brother **sing** in the bathroom. (I heard his singing from the beginning to the end)

Be careful: Όταν υπάρχει **can** ή **could** πριν από τα ρήματα αντίληψης το ρήμα που ακολουθεί μπαίνει πάντα σε gerund.

e.g. I **can hear** the waves **breaking**. I **could see** people **partying**.

→ Let's give it a go...

1. When I arrived at the party I saw David _____ with Sophie. [DANCE]
2. I saw David _____ with Sophie and felt really jealous. [DANCE]
3. Can you see David _____ with Sophie? They look really happy! [DANCE]
4. Are you deaf? Can't you hear the phone _____? [RING]
5. The minute I heard the phone _____ I jumped off my chair to answer it. [RING]
6. When I got home I heard the phone _____. [RING]
7. I felt the bomb _____ and screamed really loud! [EXPLODE]
8. Even from such a long distance you could feel the bomb _____. [EXPLODE]
9. I walked into the room and noticed Mr. Evans _____ very strangely. [BEHAVE]
10. When the party was almost over I noticed Mr. Evans _____ very strangely. [BEHAVE]
11. I watched his plane _____, unable to hold my tears. [TAKE OFF]
12. When I arrived at the terminal I saw his plane _____. [TAKE OFF]
13. I love this spot! From here you can see many planes _____. [TAKE OFF]
14. I love listening to the birds _____ when I wake up. [SING]
15. Be quiet! I can't listen to the birds _____. [SING]