

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?

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.



nectarine



alarm



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?

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