

# FEEL, HEAR, LISTEN, LOOK, SEE, SMELL, SOUND, TASTE



Look at the words on the right. They are synonyms, but there is a difference between them: they collocate differently. For example, we can say *listen to a song* but we can not say *hear to a song*. Now read the following dictionary entries of these words.

feel hear listen look see  
smell sound taste

**feel** /fi:l/ v (pt, pp felt)  
1 to explore or perceive sth by touching it or by holding it in the hands 2 to be aware of or experience sth physical or emotional

**hear** /hɪə(r)/ v (pt, pp heard) 1 to perceive sounds with the ears 2 to listen or pay attention to sb/sth

**listen** /'lɪs(ə)n/ v 1 ~ (to sb/sth) to make an effort to hear sb/sth

**look** /lʊk/ v 1 ~ (at sb/sth) to turn one's eyes in a particular direction in order to see sb/sth 2 ~ (at sth) to pay attention to sth, to observe sth 3 ~ (to sb) like sb/sth; ~ (to sb) as if.../ as though to seem to be, to appear; to have the appearance of sb/sth

**see** /si:/ v (pt saw, pp seen) 1 to become aware of sb/sth by using the eyes, to perceive sb/sth 2 to have or use the power of sight

**smell** /smel/ v (pt, pp smelt or smelled) 1 to notice sth/sb by using the nose; to put one's nose near sth and breathe in so as to discover or identify its smell

**sound** /saʊnd/ v 1 to give a specific impression when heard; ~ (to be) as if.../as though.../as like... to give the impression that

**taste** /teɪst/ v 1 to be able to recognize flavours in food and drink 2 ~ (of sth) to have a certain specified flavour 3 to test the flavour of sth by eating or drinking a small amount of it

There are several verbs relating to the five senses of sight, smell, hearing, taste and touch. They are often used with the verb **can** and are not usually used in the continuous tenses. **SEE, SMELL, HEAR, TASTE** and **FEEL** describe experiencing something through one of the senses. These verbs can also describe somebody's physical ability to use their eyes, ears, etc. **LOOK, SMELL, LISTEN, TASTE, SOUND** and **FEEL** are used to describe how somebody or something is experienced through one of the senses. **LOOK, SMELL, LISTEN, TASTE** and **FEEL** can describe making a deliberate effort to use the particular sense. **FEEL** and **LOOK** can express a person's physical or mental state. In this sense, the continuous tenses can be used.

Fill in with a suitable word in the context, based on the above definitions. Pay attention to the tenses.

- I am \_\_\_\_\_ tired. I think I'll go to bed.
- From behind the curtain he could \_\_\_\_\_ her coming.
- She \_\_\_\_\_ upset on the phone. Do you know why?
- I \_\_\_\_\_ someone knocking at the door.
- \_\_\_\_\_ to me when I'm talking to you!
- I \_\_\_\_\_ something burning! Check the oven!
- You \_\_\_\_\_ so happy! What happened?
- This milk \_\_\_\_\_ sour.
- She doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ very well. Speak up!
- \_\_\_\_\_ my perfume. Do you like it?
- \_\_\_\_\_ the alarm! There's a fire in the building.
- \_\_\_\_\_! Can you \_\_\_\_\_ that noise?
- Did you \_\_\_\_\_ the earthquake?
- \_\_\_\_\_! A rainbow on the sky!
- I can't \_\_\_\_\_ well anymore. I think I need glasses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ this wine. I can't have any alcohol.
- Your argument \_\_\_\_\_ reasonable.

Choose the most appropriate word to fill in the sentences:

- I can't \_\_\_\_\_ anything in my left leg.  
a) feel                      b) look                      c) taste
- She \_\_\_\_\_ at me and waved good-bye.  
a) looked                      b) saw                      c) sounded
- It \_\_\_\_\_ to me you are in trouble.  
a) listens                      b) looks                      c) sounds
- I can't \_\_\_\_\_ a word you're saying.  
a) hear                      b) listen                      c) sound
- I didn't \_\_\_\_\_ you at the party. Where were you?  
a) look                      b) see                      c) smell
- \_\_\_\_\_ this. Does it need more sugar?  
a) feel                      b) smell                      c) taste
- She \_\_\_\_\_ to the song attentively.  
a) heard                      b) listened                      c) sounded
- Can you \_\_\_\_\_ the aroma of this peach?  
a) look                      b) see                      c) smell

