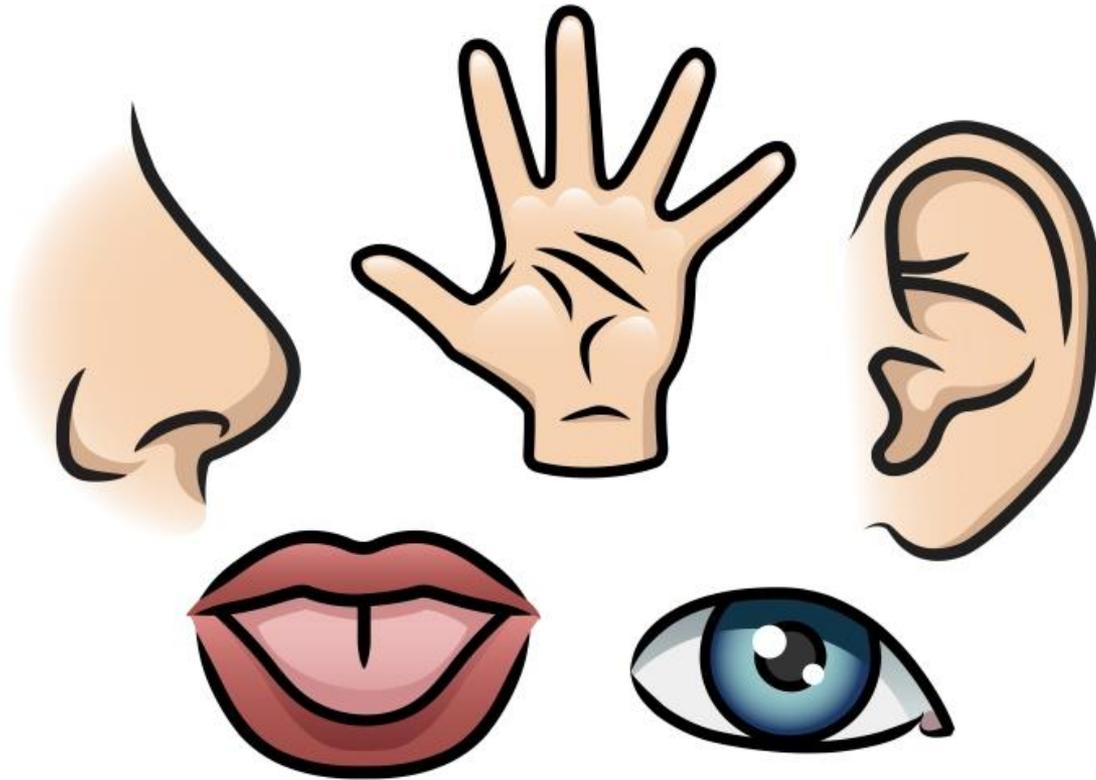


Verbs of the senses



Verbs of the senses



STATIVE: *feel, hear, see, smell, taste*

- are all non-action verbs and cannot be used in progressive forms.

You **smell** nice. (NOT ~~you are smelling~~)

This soup **tastes** fantastic. What did you put in it? (NOT ~~is tasting~~)

- use **can** or **can't** with these verbs (and NOT present continuous) to talk about something that is happening at the moment.

I **can see** a beautiful woman next to your sister. (NOT ~~I am seeing~~)

Sorry, can you speak up? I **can't hear** you. (NOT ~~I'm not hearing~~)

I **can smell** petrol. Have you just filled up the tank?
(NOT ~~I am smelling~~)

I've burned my tongue and now I **can't taste** the flavour in the dish. (NOT ~~I am not tasting~~)

I **can feel** your heartbeat. It is very fast. (NOT ~~I'm feeling~~)

STATIVE: *look* and *sound*

- when they mean 'seem' or 'appear'

She **looks** old.

They **look** lovely.

You **sound** very happy.

It **sounds** good.

Dynamic: *feel, hear, look, see, smell, taste*

- ***feel, look, smell,*** and ***taste*** can be used in continuous forms when they are **voluntary actions**.

Why **are you smelling** the milk? Isn't it good?

= put your nose near something to see how it smells

He's **tasting** the food to see if it needs more salt.

= put something into your mouth to see how it tastes

I'm **feeling** the fabric to see if it's soft or not.

= touch something to see how it feels

Why **are you looking** in that direction?

= direct your eyes in order to see

Dynamic: *feel, hear, look, see, smell, taste*

- We can also use ***feel*** in progressive tenses to talk about **how we feel physically or emotionally.**

How **are you feeling**?

I'm **not feeling** very well.

I **was feeling** very weak after the operation.

- The verbs ***hear*** and ***smell*** can also be used as action verbs with a different meaning.

I'm **seeing** Jerry for lunch. (= meet sb)

We've **been seeing** each other for months. (= date sb)

I've **been hearing** really strange things about him recently.
(= receive information)

Sense verbs: infinitive or gerund?

feel, hear, listen, notice, see, watch

- a **gerund** - to express an incomplete action, an action in progress, or a repeated action:

I **saw** them **kissing** in the park.

(=The action was in progress. I didn't see it finish.)

They **watched** the man **hitting** a police officer.

(=The action was in progress; the man hit the police officer repeatedly.)

- an **infinitive** - to talk about an action we heard or saw from beginning to end; usually a short action, and not a repeated action.

I **saw** them **kiss** in the park.

(=I saw the action from start to end. It was probably a short kiss)

They **watched** the man **hit** a police officer.

(=They saw the action from start to end; the man hit the police officer once)

Stative or Dynamic: *feel, hear, look, see, smell, taste*

- <https://test-english.com/grammar-points/b2/verbs-of-the-senses/>
- Ex.1



Sense verbs:
adjective, noun or clause

- *look, smell, taste, sound, feel* + adjective

When you use that cream, your skin **feels** really smooth.

When he talked to us, he **sounded** nervous.

That soup **tastes** delicious !

You **look** lovely !

The roses **smell** sweet.



Sense verbs: adjective, **noun** or clause



- ***Look, smell, taste, sound, feel*** + **LIKE** + **noun**

You **sound like your mother.**

This **tastes like chicken.**

It **feels like heaven.**

- Note that we say ***smell/taste of*** when the smell or flavour are of the real thing. We say ***smell/taste like*** when it's a smell or flavour similar to the real thing.

The soup **smells of cheese.** (=There is cheese in it.)

The soup **smells like cheese.**

(=The smell is similar to the smell of cheese.)

Sense verbs:
adjective, noun or **clause**

- ***look, smell, taste, sound, feel***
+ ***as if/as though*** + clause

You sound ***as if you had a long party last night.***

You look ***as though you've just seen a ghost.***

You look ***as if something bad has just happened to you.***

- In informal English we often *use look, smell, taste, sound,*
AND *feel + like* + clause.

You sound ***like*** you had a long party last night.

You look ***like*** you've just seen a ghost.

Sense verbs: adjective, noun or clause

- <https://test-english.com/grammar-points/b1-b2/verbs-of-the-senses/>
- Ex. 1



Sense verbs:

followed by an adjective or an adverb?

- When the **verbs of senses** are used as **non-action verbs**, they are linking verbs (like *be*) which are followed by **adjectives**, and not by adverbs.

You **look** **tired**. (NOT ~~tiredly~~)

She **felt** **bad** after saying that. (NOT ~~badly~~)

- When you are describing the **manner in which someone senses something**, however, you should use an **adverb**.

I **listened** **carefully** to the instructions.

I **looked** **surreptitiously** at the scar on his face.

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