

Verb Pairs Worksheet

Look vs See

Level: B1–B2 (Intermediate)

Explanation

Look

To direct your eyes deliberately at something (an active action).

See

To perceive with your eyes without trying (a passive action).

Example Sentences

Look (Intentional)

I **look** at the stars every night.

Please **look** carefully at the diagram.

She refused to **look** at the scary movie.

See (Unintentional)

I can **see** a bird in the tree.

Did you **see** that flash of lightning?

She couldn't **see** the sign in the fog.

Key Differences

Feature	Look	See
Intentional?	Yes – you choose to look	No – happens naturally
Action type	Active	Passive
Control	You control it	You don't always control it

Common Exceptions & Tricky Uses

"I see what you mean" – a fixed phrase meaning "I understand," not about vision.

"See you later" – a common goodbye phrase, not about looking at someone.

"Look good/bad" – means "appear" or "seem" (e.g., "You look tired today").

"See a doctor/dentist" – means "visit" or "have an appointment with."

"Look after/look for" – phrasal verbs meaning "take care of" and "search for."

"I can see that..." – often means "I understand" or "it's obvious that..."

Discussion Prompts

1. What do you like to look at when you want to relax?

2. Have you ever seen something surprising while walking down the street?

3. How do you show someone you're looking at them politely?

4. Have you ever had trouble seeing something clearly? What did you do?

5. What happens when people don't look carefully before crossing the road?

Exercises

Complete the sentences with the correct verb form: **look** or **see**.

1. Did you _____ that car go through the red light?

2. I usually _____ out the window when I need to think.

3. Please _____ at this form and tell me if it's correct.

4. I _____ a strange man outside your house yesterday.

5. _____ at me when I'm talking to you!

6. Can you _____ the difference between these two photos?

7. We went to _____ the fireworks on New Year's Eve.

8. Don't _____ directly into the sun.

9. I can't _____ anything without my glasses.

10. She didn't even _____ back as she walked away.

Make Your Own Sentences

Write three sentences using "**look**" and three using "**see**" in context. Try to use different tenses and situations.

Look Sentences:

See Sentences:

Answer Key

1. see 2. look 3. look 4. saw 5. Look 6. see 7. see 8. look 9. see 10. look