

Look, See and Watch

These words all seem very similar as they all talk about different ways of using your eyes. However, there are some important differences because it depends on how you intend to look or watch and how intense you are being.

'See' = things we can't avoid. An image simply came before our eyes:

*"I opened the curtains and **saw** some birds outside."* = I didn't intend to see them, it just happened.

'Look' = an intention to 'see' something:

*"I **looked** at the newspaper this morning over the break."* = I intended to see the newspaper.

'Watch' = we intend to look at something, but we're also looking at it quite intensely. This is usually because it's moving or changing in some way and we watch these movements or changes taking place:

*"I **watched** the bus go through the traffic lights."* = the bus is moving and changing its position.

One of the other confusing things is whether we use watch or see for films, concerts, TV, etc.? In general, we use 'see' for public performances and 'watch' for television at home:

*"We're going to **see** a new release at the cinema tonight".* = public

*Have you **seen** the latest viral video on YouTube?* = public

*Last night we stayed home and **watched** some films on Netflix.* = private

*When I'm bored I **watch** TikTok on my phone.* = private

Remember,

'see' – you didn't really intend to, it just happened and for public performances;

'look' – you intended to do it; and

watch you intended to do it and you were looking intensely, usually because it was moving or changing or you are watching TV at home.

Skills wise...now let's try:

1. I can _____ a fly in your eye.
2. I can't _____ any stars. It's too cloudy.
3. My kids like _____ movies at home.
4. We couldn't _____ the TV news. It was too gruesome.
5. The two of us _____ the sun set while we drank champagne.
6. Do you want to _____ the photos from my holiday?
7. Stop _____ at the clock.
8. Did you _____ the rainbow this morning?
9. The police _____ the house all night but nobody came or left.
10. Rosy! _____ this part just coming up! It's hilarious.