

Verbs of the senses

Hello and welcome back, in this lesson we will be exploring verbs and in particular those related with the senses.

Senses are a faculty by which the body perceives an external stimulus; one of the faculties of sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch.



Sight



Sight is the faculty or power of seeing. For sight we need eyes.

As sight is an action, there are many verbs associated with sight.

glance = to take a brief look (intentionally)

glimpse = to take a brief look (unintentionally); a "glimpse" can also be intentional, for example, when someone is trying very hard to see something and then finally catches a glimpse of it. When intentional, a "glimpse" usually requires more effort, or maybe some stroke of luck.

stare = to give a rude look to somebody; a "stare" is not always rude--I can stare at someone in the same way I might gaze at him or her. Also, you can definitely "stare" at *things*, which is hardly ever rude. "Staring" generally just means to look at someone or something for a long time, for whatever reason.



gaze = to give a romantic look to somebody; when referred to "someone," it does have a romantic sense, but when referred to something, it may simply have a sense of tranquillity, remarkability, astonishment, etc. For example, "to gaze at the stars."

contemplate = to observe deeply; this does not have much to do with sight.

skim = to read inattentively; yes, but not in a negative sense. It simply means "to gather the main idea(s) of a text by reading it quickly."

scan = to read with attention; this word can overlap with "to skim" at times, but you're right that it usually means "to read more diligently," in the sense that the reader attends to every part of the text.

peek = to take a brief look, secretly



peep = to take a long look, secretly; yes, and this verb is usually used in the progressive: "*he was peeping*" or "*We are peeping*"--which adds to the idea of a longer length of time.

peer = to observe searching something;

Smell



Smell is the faculty or power of smelling. For smell we need a nose.
As smell is an action, there are many verbs associated with smell.

Smell = to sense a fragrance using the nose

Sniff = to deliberately inhale through



Whiff = a short sniff.

Hearing



Listening is the faculty or power of hearing. For hearing we need an ear.

As hearing is an action, there are many verbs associated with it.

Hear = to hear something, involves using the ears to perceive sound.

Listen = to focus on a particular sound



Overhear = to listen in on someone's conversation.



Taste



Taste is the faculty or power of tasting. For taste we need a tongue.

As taste is an action, there are many verbs associated with taste.

Taste = to use one's tongue to sense flavours. These include: bitter, sweet, salty and sour

Lick = to use ones tongue to taste.



Touch



Touch is the faculty or power of touching. For touch we need skin.

As touch is an action, there are many verbs associated with it.

Touch = using ones fingers to feel and sense a surface



Feel = using ones fingers to sense an objects shape.

Brush = to gently hit against another object.

Caress = to feel an object with care.

Handle = to hold an object with ones hands.

