

(1) TO WATCH, TO SEE, TO LOOK AT

(2) Today I spoke with one of my Brazilian students, Giancarlos, about his work in his university.

(3) He stated:

X “In the morning I will give my presentation, and in the afternoon I will **see** it on tv.”

(4) Later, while practicing to speak about finding a room mate, my Hong Kong student, Lorraine, said:

X I **watched** your roommate ad in the paper this morning.

(5) My students are making a common mistake:

They are mixing up the verbs:

infinitive	present	past	present participle	past participle
to see	see/sees	saw	seeing	seen
to watch	watch/watches	watched	watching	watched
to look at	look/looks	looked	looking	looked

(6) When you are not intentional about what you see, use “see”

I **see** a squirrel!

Mommy, did you **see** the doggy?

(7) You can also use “**see**” when looking at things that are unmoving or static:

Let’s go **see** the mountains.

I got to **see** the Statue of Liberty last year!

(8)

(8) Use “**watch**” when engaging in more long-term deliberate viewing of something that has action, movement, and changes such as movies, sports, concerts and musicals:

I **watched** that movie last night.

He loves **watching** soccer games!

(9) “To **look at**” requires your intention (as with “watch”) but it’s a briefer encounter (a shorter viewing time):

Come **look at** this dress.

Let’s **look at** your homework.

(10) **To see** and **to watch** are directly followed by the direct object without any preposition.

My brother loves **watching** football.

I haven’t **seen any birds** this morning.

My mom and I **watched an awesome movie** last night.

Honey, have you **seen my glasses**?

(11) Contrasting from see and watch:

**look requires a preposition:*

AT

Can I **look at** the cut on your hand?

FOR

We better start **looking for** your glasses!

INTO

Look into the situation more carefully.

** look can be used as a noun with have/take:*

Take a look at her skills!

I need to **have a look at** your grades.

(12) Before you start noticing how many times we break the rules, just remember **TO SEE** is the most common verb by far, and will be used more often and in many general ways:

Have you **seen** the movie, "Groundhog Day?"

I have never **seen** a tennis match.

I'll **see** you in English class.

LET'S TRY A LITTLE PRACTICE

1. *Did you* *a. watch* *b. see* *c. look at* *the movie, The Grinch, last night?*
2. *I want to* *a. watch* *b. see* *c. look at* *the giant statue of Jesus in Brazil.*
3. *My brother loves* *a. watching* *b. seeing* *c. looking at* *American football games.*
4. *My dad wants to* *a. watch* *b. see* *c. look at* *my report card from school.*
5. *Sarah, come* *a. watch* *b. see* *c. look at* *this dress I bought!*
6. *My family* *a. watched* *b. saw* *c. looked at* *the musical "Wicked" yesterday.*
7. *I have never* *a. watched* *b. seen* *c. looked at* *a zebra in real life.*
8. *a. Watching* *b. Seeing* *c. Looking at* *documentaries makes you more intelligent.*
9. *Did you* *a. watch* *b. see* *c. look at* *the accident on your way home?*
10. *I didn't get to* *a. watch* *b. see* *c. look at* *the new shirt my sister bought.*

HER ARE YOUR ANSWERS:

1. *Did you a. watch the movie, The Grinch, last night?*
2. *I want to b. see the giant statue of Jesus in Brazil.*
3. *My brother loves a. watching American football games.*
4. *My dad wants to b. see OR c. look at my report card from school.*
5. *Sarah, come c. look at this dress I bought!*
6. *My family a. watched the musical "Wicked" yesterday.*
7. *I have never b. seen a zebra in real life.*
8. *a. Watching documentaries makes you more intelligent.*
9. *Did you b. see the accident on your way home?*
10. *I didn't get to b. see OR c. look at the new shirt my sister bought.*