

Look at or watch? ☆☆☆

(☆☆ = Basic ☆☆☆ = Intermediate ☆☆☆☆ = Advanced)

Grammar Bite

(read this)

Look at and *watch* are closely related, but different.



Sue is looking at a picture

(Her eyes are on it, and it's not moving)

Jim is watching the kids playing football

(His eyes are on them, and they're moving)

Jim doesn't like the picture; he's staring out of the window.

Television

You usually say:

She's watching television (the pictures on the screen are moving).

It's also possible to say:

She looking at television (the television itself is **not** moving)

That's the key difference: you **look at** something which is still, and you **watch** something which is moving.

For **see**, **look at** and **watch**, see GB 64

For **Look at** and **look**, see GB 65

For the three meanings of **see**, see GB 66

Worksheet

(do this)

Insert the right form of one of these words in each blank:

look at watch

- 1 What are you doing? I _____ this book.
- 2 What are you doing? I _____ these fish swimming about in their tank.
- 3 He has to move house, and he _____ three possible houses this morning.
- 4 I _____ the lock as you asked me to, but I couldn't see anything wrong with it.
- 5 Come on Jim, let's _____ the game.

look at watch

- 6 Just _____ Maggie! What on earth is she wearing?
- 7 Bird _____ is very popular in the countryside.
- 8 I _____ the X Factor on a big screen last night.
- 9 Can you _____ this drawing of mine? I'm not sure if it's right.
- 10 It was quite scary _____ the rioters on television most of last week..

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