

Four meanings of see ★★★

(★ = Basic ★★ = Intermediate ★★★ = Advanced)

Grammar Bite

(read this)

Worksheet

(do this)

Here are four different ways to use the verb **see**:



“Use the eyes”
I can see you!
(often used with **can**)



“Understand”
I see what you mean.



“Meet”
I'm seeing the doctor at 6.



“Refer to”
See p. 10

Advanced ★★★

See (=“use the eyes”) is usually a STATIVE verb (SIMPLE tenses only), but like most stative verbs it can be used as a DYNAMIC verb:

*Try looking at people as if you are seeing them for the first time
We are seeing the beginnings of a two tier system*

In example two, *see* means “become aware of” more than “use the eyes”. This is common when *see* is used dynamically.

Insert a word(s) in each blank:

am seeing (meet) **can't see** (eyes)
see (understand) **See** (refer)

- 1 Yes, I _____ what you mean.
- 2 I _____ the doctor tomorrow at seven.
- 3 _____ p 155 for more details.
- 4 The windscreen's dirty, I _____ properly.

(can) see (eyes) **see** (understand)
See (refer) **was seeing** (meet)

- 5 Grandpa _____ really well since he had the cataracts removed.
- 6 Vladimir _____ his psychiatrist twice a week, but that's finished now.
- 7 I've read the plan, but I don't _____ what you're trying to achieve.
- 8 _____ Freud, Marcel: *Psychiatry Today*, p. 73.

see (eyes) **see** (understand)
See (refer) **is seeing** (meet)

- 9 _____ p. 60 for more information.
 - 10 Can you _____ the screen from there?
 - 11 I don't _____ the difference between these two ideas.
 - 12 He _____ the surgeon tomorrow.
- For **see**, **look at** and **watch**, see GB 64
For **look at** and **look (good)**, see GB 65
For **hear**, **listen** and **sound**, see GB 67
For more on vbs of bodily sensation, see GB 68

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