

Verbs of senses

Grammar Lesson, Examples & 30 Practice Questions

Verbs of Senses in English

Verbs of senses — also called **sensory verbs** or **perception verbs** — describe what we experience through sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch. At C1 level, mastering these verbs means understanding their subtle grammatical behaviour, particularly how they function as **stative verbs**, how they shift meaning when used in the continuous form, and how they combine with adjectives, nouns, and different verb patterns (*-ing*, bare infinitive, or full infinitive).

Consider these two sentences:

"I see a man crossing the road."

"I am seeing my doctor tomorrow."

Both use **see**, yet the meaning is entirely different. This lesson will show you exactly why — and how to use all the major verbs of senses with precision and sophistication.

The Core Verbs of Senses

The five main senses give us five groups of sensory verbs. Each sense typically has both an **involuntary verb** (something that happens to you without effort) and a **deliberate verb** (something you actively choose to do).

Sense	Involuntary (Stative)	Deliberate (Dynamic)
Sight	see	look (at), watch, observe, notice
Sound	hear	listen (to)
Smell	smell	sniff, smell
Taste	taste	taste, try, sample
Touch	feel	touch, feel

The involuntary verbs (**see, hear, smell, taste, feel**) are typically **stative** — they describe a state, not an action. However, as you will see, each of them also has dynamic uses that shift meaning significantly.

Stative vs Dynamic Use: The Core Distinction

The most important grammatical feature of sensory verbs is that many of them are **stative by default** but can become **dynamic** with a change in meaning. This directly affects whether you can use the **continuous**

aspect.

Stative Use (No Continuous)

When a verb of sense describes passive, involuntary perception — something happening to the senses without effort — it is stative and **does not normally appear in the continuous form**.

"I hear music coming from the apartment above."

"She smells something burning in the kitchen."

"This soup tastes incredible."

"The fabric feels rough against my skin."

These sentences describe states of perception, not deliberate actions. Using the continuous here would be non-standard in formal English:

✗ *I am hearing music.* (in the context of passive, involuntary hearing)

✓ **I hear music.**

Dynamic Use (Continuous Possible, Meaning Changes)

When the same verbs are used with a deliberate or active meaning, they become dynamic and can appear in the continuous form. The meaning, however, shifts considerably.

Verb	Stative Meaning	Dynamic Meaning
see	perceive with the eyes (involuntary)	meet / consult / date / understand
hear	perceive sound (involuntary)	receive news / consider formally
smell	perceive an odour (involuntary)	deliberately sniff something
taste	have a particular flavour	deliberately try the flavour of something
feel	have a physical sensation / hold an opinion	deliberately touch / experience emotionally

Study these contrasts carefully:

See — stative vs dynamic:

"I see the problem now." (= I understand)

"I'm seeing my consultant on Thursday." (= I have an appointment with)

"She's been seeing him for six months." (= dating)

Hear — stative vs dynamic:

"I hear what you're saying." (= I understand / I'm aware of)

"The committee is hearing evidence this week." (= formally receiving and considering)

"Have you heard? She got the promotion." (= received news)

Smell — stative vs dynamic:

"Something smells odd in here." (= has an odour, involuntary perception)

"The detective was smelling each bottle carefully." (= deliberately sniffing)

Taste — stative vs dynamic:

"This wine tastes slightly acidic." (= has a flavour, stative)

"The chef was tasting each dish before service." (= deliberately sampling)

Feel — stative vs dynamic:

"I feel exhausted after the journey." (= experience a state)

"She was feeling the texture of the silk carefully." (= deliberately touching)

"I feel that we have made a serious error." (= believe/think, stative)

"I'm feeling rather unsettled today." (= experiencing emotionally, dynamic — acceptable in informal English)

Verb Patterns After Verbs of Senses

At C1 level, it is essential to know which verb patterns follow sensory verbs. The three patterns are:

- **Verb + object + bare infinitive** (complete action, result focused)
- **Verb + object + -ing form** (action in progress, partial or ongoing)
- **Verb + adjective / noun** (linking verb use)

Pattern 1: Sensory Verb + Object + Bare Infinitive

Use the **bare infinitive** (infinitive without *to*) after a sensory verb + object when you want to express that you perceived a **complete action** from beginning to end.

Structure: see / hear / feel / watch / notice / observe + object + bare infinitive

"I saw him cross the street and enter the building." (I witnessed the whole action)

"She heard the door slam behind him." (complete, sudden action)

"We watched the sun set over the mountains." (entire process observed)

"I felt the ground shake beneath my feet." (complete sensation)

"Nobody noticed her leave the room."

Pattern 2: Sensory Verb + Object + -ing Form

Use the **-ing form** after a sensory verb + object when you want to express that you perceived an action that was **already in progress** — you caught it midway, or it was ongoing.

Structure: see / hear / feel / watch / notice / observe + object + -ing

"I saw him crossing the street." (I noticed him while the action was in progress)

"She heard someone shouting in the corridor." (ongoing)

"We noticed a strange man watching us." (in progress)

"I felt my heart beating furiously." (continuous sensation)

"He watched the crowd gathering outside the window."

Bare Infinitive vs -ing: The Meaning Difference

Sentence	Meaning
<i>I saw her fall.</i>	I witnessed the complete action — she fell, and I saw it happen.

Sentence	Meaning
<i>I saw her falling.</i>	I saw her in the process of falling — possibly before it was complete.
<i>We heard the alarm go off.</i>	We heard the complete event — the alarm triggered.
<i>We heard the alarm going off.</i>	We heard it while it was sounding — an ongoing noise.
<i>She felt something touch her shoulder.</i>	A brief, complete touch.
<i>She felt something touching her shoulder.</i>	An ongoing, continuous sensation of something touching.

Pattern 3: Sensory Verb + Adjective or Noun (Linking Verb Use)

Verbs of senses — particularly **look**, **sound**, **smell**, **taste**, and **feel** — frequently function as **linking verbs**, connecting the subject to a description (adjective or noun). In this pattern, no object is involved.

Structure: *Subject + sensory verb + adjective / noun*

"That plan sounds risky to me."

"The office feels uncomfortably warm."

"She looks completely exhausted."

"The proposal sounded like a reasonable compromise."

"That smells like burning plastic — we should check the wiring."

"The situation feels like a trap."

Note that in the linking verb pattern, you use an **adjective**, not an adverb. This is a common area of confusion:

✗ *It tastes wonderfully.*

✓ **It tastes wonderful.**

✗ *She looks beautifully in that dress.*

✓ **She looks beautiful in that dress.**

Look, Sound, Smell, Taste, Feel + Like + Noun Phrase

When a comparison is made using a noun phrase (rather than an adjective), use **like** between the sensory verb and the noun phrase.

Structure: *Subject + sensory verb + like + noun phrase*

"This song sounds like something from the 1970s."

"That looks like an excellent opportunity."

"It tastes like cardboard — I can't eat this."

"The deal felt like a significant achievement."

"Something in this room smells like damp."

Contrast with the adjective pattern (no *like*):

Pattern	Example
Verb + adjective	<i>It sounds strange.</i>
Verb + like + noun phrase	<i>It sounds like a strange coincidence.</i>
Verb + adjective	<i>She looks pale.</i>
Verb + like + noun phrase	<i>She looks like she hasn't slept in days.</i>

Advanced Uses of Feel

Feel is particularly versatile at C1 level and deserves closer attention.

Feel + That-Clause (Opinion/Belief)

Feel can introduce a **that-clause** to express a subjective opinion or belief, often implying a more emotional or personal stance than *think* or *believe*.

"I feel that the committee has failed to address the core issue."

"She felt that her concerns had been dismissed without consideration."

"Many residents feel that the development will damage the local environment."

Feel + As Though / As If

"It feels as though we're going in circles."

"She felt as if the world had shifted beneath her."

Feel + Infinitive with to

In certain constructions, particularly with modal meaning or after adjectives, *feel* can be followed by a full infinitive:

"I don't feel able to make that commitment right now."

"He felt compelled to speak out despite the risks."

Advanced Uses of See

See has a rich range of idiomatic and metaphorical uses that go well beyond literal sight.

See + That-Clause (Ensure / Understand)

"Please see that all documents are submitted by Friday." (= ensure)

"I see that you've already revised the draft." (= notice / understand)

See + Object + Past Participle

This pattern emphasises the result of an action rather than the process:

"She wants to see the project completed before the end of the quarter."

"I'd like to see this matter resolved as quickly as possible."

See in Fixed Expressions

"I'll see what I can do."

"Let me see if I can arrange that."

"As far as I can see, there's no easy solution."

"I see your point, but I'm not entirely convinced."

Advanced Uses of Hear

Hear + About / Of

"Have you heard about the merger?" (= received news about)

"I've never heard of such a policy being implemented so quickly."

Hear + From

"I haven't heard from the client since Monday." (= received communication from)

Hear + That-Clause

"I hear that the negotiations have broken down." (informal, = I've been told / I understand)

"We've heard that the funding may be withdrawn."

Passive Constructions with Verbs of Senses

When verbs of senses are used in the passive voice, the pattern changes depending on which active pattern was used.

Active Pattern → Passive Equivalent

Active	Passive
<i>They saw him leave the building.</i>	<i>He was seen to leave the building.</i> (bare infinitive → full infinitive with to)
<i>People heard her shout.</i>	<i>She was heard to shout.</i>
<i>We noticed him watching.</i>	<i>He was noticed watching.</i> (-ing stays as -ing)
<i>They observed the suspect entering the premises.</i>	<i>The suspect was observed entering the premises.</i>

Key rule: In the passive, the **bare infinitive becomes a full infinitive with to**. The **-ing form remains unchanged**.

"The accused was seen to enter the building at 11 p.m."

"A vehicle was heard to accelerate sharply before the collision."

"She was heard speaking to someone in an adjacent room."

Sensory Verbs with Modal Verbs

Sensory verbs frequently combine with modal verbs, particularly **can** and **could**, to express present or past ability to perceive. This construction emphasises the *ability or capacity* to perceive something at a given moment.

"I can hear something dripping behind the wall."

"Can you smell gas? I think there might be a leak."

"She could feel tension in the room the moment she walked in."

"From the hill, you could see the entire city spread out below."

Note that **can/could + sensory verb** is often preferred over the present continuous for stative perception:

✗ *I am hearing something strange.* (non-standard for involuntary perception)

✓ **I can hear something strange.**

Important Differences and Special Cases

See vs Look vs Watch vs Notice vs Observe

Verb	Key Nuance	Example
see	Involuntary; to perceive with the eyes; also: understand, meet, date	<i>I suddenly saw a figure in the shadows.</i>
look (at)	Deliberate, directed, brief or general; requires <i>at</i> with object	<i>She looked at the diagram carefully.</i>
watch	Deliberate, sustained attention to something moving or changing	<i>We watched the debate for three hours.</i>
notice	Become aware of; often implies something subtle or unexpected	<i>I noticed a flaw in the argument immediately.</i>
observe	Formal/scientific; watch carefully and systematically	<i>Researchers observed participants over six months.</i>

Hear vs Listen to

Verb	Key Nuance	Example
hear	Involuntary; sound reaches the ear without effort	<i>Did you hear that noise just now?</i>
listen to	Deliberate; you give active attention to sound	<i>He listened to the recording three times.</i>

Smell, Taste, and Feel as Both Stative and Dynamic

These three verbs are particularly flexible. Context and sentence structure tell us which meaning is intended. Compare:

"The room smells musty." — linking verb, stative, describes a quality

"She smelled the wine before tasting it." — dynamic, deliberate action

"The dessert tastes too sweet for my preference." — linking verb, stative

"The sommelier tasted every wine in the selection." — dynamic, deliberate

"I feel certain that we're on the right track." — stative, opinion

"He was feeling the wall for a light switch." — dynamic, physical action

Common Mistakes

✗ *I am seeing the Eiffel Tower right now — it's beautiful!*

✓ **I can see the Eiffel Tower right now — it's beautiful!**

(See in the sense of involuntary visual perception is stative and should not use the continuous; use *can see* instead.)

✗ *She was seen leave the building at midnight.*

✓ **She was seen to leave the building at midnight.**

(In passive constructions, the bare infinitive must become a full infinitive with *to*.)

✗ *It tastes wonderfully.*

✓ **It tastes wonderful.**

(Sensory linking verbs are followed by adjectives, not adverbs.)

✗ *I heard him to shout during the argument.*

✓ **I heard him shout during the argument.**

(Active pattern: sensory verb + object + bare infinitive, not full infinitive with *to*.)

✗ *I saw him crossing the street and then disappear around the corner.*

✓ **I saw him cross the street and disappear around the corner.**

(When using the bare infinitive pattern to show a complete sequence of actions, keep the pattern consistent.)

✗ *Can you listen the music from outside?*

✓ **Can you hear the music from outside?**

(*Hear* is used for involuntary perception; *listen* always requires *to* when an object follows.)

✗ *It sounds like difficult.*

✓ **It sounds difficult.**

(*Like* is only used before noun phrases, not before adjectives.)

✗ *She looks like tired.*

✓ **She looks tired.**

(Again: adjective directly after the linking verb; *like* only precedes noun phrases.)

Verbs of Senses: Quick Summary

Here is a concise overview of the key rules for using verbs of senses at an advanced level:

- **Stative use:** Verbs like *see, hear, smell, taste, feel* describe involuntary perception and do not normally take the continuous form. Use *can/could + verb* for present/past perception states.
- **Dynamic use:** The same verbs can become dynamic with a change in meaning (e.g., *see* = meet/date; *taste* = sample deliberately), and then the continuous is possible.
- **Bare infinitive pattern:** Sensory verb + object + bare infinitive = complete, whole action perceived.
- **-ing pattern:** Sensory verb + object + -ing = action perceived in progress, ongoing.
- **Passive shift:** Bare infinitive in the active → full infinitive with *to* in the passive; -ing stays as -ing.
- **Linking verb pattern:** Sensory verbs + adjective (no *like*) or + *like* + noun phrase.
- **Adjective, not adverb:** Always use an adjective after a linking sensory verb (*it smells wonderful*, not *wonderfully*).
- **See vs look vs watch; hear vs listen to:** Involuntary vs deliberate — the choice of verb signals intentionality.

Now practise **verbs of senses** in the exercises below.

Verbs of senses – Practice Test

C1 | 30 Questions: Multiple Choice, Fill-in-the-Gap & Fill-in-the-Blank

Part 1: Multiple Choice (Questions 1–10)

1 The detective noticed that something in the room ____ distinctly of burnt chemicals, which made him deeply uneasy.

- A** was smelling
- B** smelled
- C** had been smelling
- D** smells

2 Although the fabric ____ soft to the touch, it was actually made of synthetic fibres.

- A** was feeling
- B** felt
- C** has felt
- D** feels like

3 She could ____ the faint aroma of jasmine drifting through the open window as she read.

- A** sense
- B** feel
- C** taste
- D** hear

4 The wine ____ faintly of oak and blackberries, with an unusually long finish on the palate.

- A** tasted
- B** felt
- C** sounded
- D** appeared

5 From across the crowded hall, she ____ him whispering something to the ambassador, though she could not make out the words.

- A** listened
- B** heard
- C** was hearing
- D** sounded

6 The committee ____ the proposal as fundamentally flawed, despite its polished presentation.

- A** sensed
- B** saw
- C** heard
- D** tasted

7 Having grown up near the sea, she could ____ the difference between Atlantic and Mediterranean breezes almost immediately.

- A** listen
- B** taste
- C** smell
- D** sound

8 The audience ____ the tension build as the final movement approached its climactic crescendo.

- A** listened
- B** tasted
- C** watched
- D** felt

9 His voice ____ strained even over the phone, which made her suspect he had not been sleeping well.

- A** sounded
- B** felt
- C** appeared to
- D** smelled

10 The investigator ____ something was wrong long before any concrete evidence had emerged — a professional instinct honed over decades.

- A** was feeling
- B** tasted
- C** sensed
- D** sounded

Part 2: Fill in the Gap (Questions 11–20)

11 The detective ____ something suspicious in the way the witness had described the scene.

- A** sensed
- B** smelled
- C** tasted

12 The old wine ____ faintly of oak and vanilla, with a long, lingering finish.

- A** tasted
- B** sounded
- C** felt

13 She could ____ the tension in the room the moment she walked through the door.

- A** feel
- B** hear
- C** taste

14 The proposal ____ reasonable on the surface, but several board members had reservations.

- A** sounded
- B** felt
- C** smelled

15 There was something about his explanation that ____ off — his story simply did not add up.

- A** smelled
- B** tasted
- C** sounded

16 The fabric of the evening gown ____ surprisingly rough against her skin despite its luxurious appearance.

- A** felt
- B** sounded
- C** tasted

17 I ____ a faint burning smell coming from the kitchen long before the smoke alarm went off.

- A** could smell
- B** was smelling
- C** had smelled

18 The surgeon ____ a slight irregularity in the patient's heartbeat during the examination.

- A** detected
- B** tasted
- C** sounded

19 The audience ____ the performer's unease despite her confident stage presence.

- A** perceived
- B** smelled
- C** tasted

20 By the time he had finished recounting the incident, his voice ____ strained and exhausted.

- A** sounded
- B** felt
- C** smelled

Part 3: Fill in the Blank (Questions 21–30)

21 The soup _____ absolutely divine — I could detect hints of saffron and cardamom the moment I walked into the kitchen.

22 Despite the faint lighting, she could _____ the outline of a figure standing at the far end of the corridor.

23 The fabric _____ incredibly coarse to the touch, which is surprising given its premium price tag.

24 I _____ the distant rumble of thunder long before the storm actually reached the city.

25 After years of training, the sommelier can _____ the difference between wines from neighbouring vineyards with remarkable precision.

26 The new policy _____ reasonable on paper, but its practical implications remain deeply controversial among stakeholders.

27 She _____ anything for several weeks following the severe bout of illness she had suffered.

28 The historians _____ a subtle shift in the tone of the monarch's proclamations during the final years of his reign.

29 He sat perfectly still, _____ every creak of the old house as if expecting something to emerge from the darkness.

30 The investigator _____ that the witness was withholding crucial information, even though her answers appeared outwardly composed.

Answer Key & Explanations

Verbs of senses | C1

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. **B** Correct Answer: smelled ✓ Explanation: Smell as a stative verb of perception is not normally used in the continuous form when describing a quality perceived involuntarily. The simple past smelled conveys the state at that moment, as in the room smelled of chemicals.
2. **B** Correct Answer: felt ✓ Explanation: When feel functions as a linking verb describing a perceived quality, it takes the simple past in narrative contexts. The fabric felt soft describes a sensory state, not an ongoing action, so the continuous is inappropriate.
3. **A** Correct Answer: sense ✓ Explanation: Sense means to perceive something through a subtle, often non-specific faculty. In this context, detecting a faint aroma intuitively fits sense better than the more specific verbs taste or hear, and more precisely than feel, which relates primarily to touch.
4. **A** Correct Answer: tasted ✓ Explanation: Taste is the appropriate verb of sense when describing flavour perceived on the palate. In this stative use, it is followed by of plus the substance whose flavour is detected, as in it tasted of oak and blackberries.
5. **B** Correct Answer: heard ✓ Explanation: Hear is a stative verb of involuntary perception, whereas listen implies deliberate attention. The past simple heard is correct here because she perceived the sound without making a conscious effort. The continuous was hearing is typically avoided with stative sense verbs.
6. **B** Correct Answer: saw ✓ Explanation: See can be used metaphorically to mean regard or perceive mentally. The committee saw the proposal as flawed uses see as in its cognitive sense, expressing a judgement or interpretation. This is a common C1-level extended meaning of a verb of sense.
7. **C** Correct Answer: smell ✓ Explanation: Smell here is used as a dynamic verb meaning to actively detect or distinguish an odour. Breezes carry distinct salt and botanical scents, making smell the most contextually precise verb. Taste and sound do not collocate naturally with airborne odours.
8. **D** Correct Answer: felt ✓ Explanation: Feel used here conveys an emotional and physical perception of an abstract quality — tension — which is experienced internally rather than through a specific sense organ. Felt the tension build follows the pattern feel + object + bare infinitive, a sophisticated C1 construction.
9. **A** Correct Answer: sounded ✓ Explanation: Sound as a linking verb is used to describe the impression conveyed through hearing. His voice sounded strained means that the auditory quality gave the impression of strain. It is followed directly by an adjective, not a noun phrase, confirming its linking function.

10. **C** Correct Answer: sensed ✓ Explanation: Sense describes an intuitive, non-specific perception that goes beyond the five physical senses. It collocates naturally with abstract objects like danger, trouble, or that something was wrong. This is a key distinction at C1 level between sense (intuition) and the more physically grounded verbs feel, taste, and sound.

Part 2: Fill in the Gap

11. **A** Correct Answer: sensed ✓ Explanation: Sensed here means to perceive or become aware of something intuitively, which fits the context of the detective noticing something suspicious. She sensed something was wrong. Smelled and tasted refer only to physical senses.
12. **A** Correct Answer: tasted ✓ Explanation: Tasted is used as a stative linking verb here, describing the flavor quality of the wine. The wine tasted of oak and vanilla. Sounded and felt refer to different sensory verbs and do not collocate with flavor descriptions.
13. **A** Correct Answer: feel ✓ Explanation: Feel can be used metaphorically to mean perceiving an atmosphere or emotional state. She could feel the tension. This is a common idiomatic use at C1 level. Hear and taste do not collocate with abstract nouns like tension in this way.
14. **A** Correct Answer: sounded ✓ Explanation: Sounded is used as a stative linking verb meaning 'seemed' or 'appeared,' especially when referring to spoken or written information. The proposal sounded reasonable. Felt typically refers to physical or emotional sensations, and smelled refers to odor.
15. **A** Correct Answer: smelled ✓ Explanation: The idiom smell off (or smell fishy) is used figuratively to mean something seems suspicious or dishonest. His explanation smelled off. While sounded could be plausible, smelled off is the established idiomatic phrase for suspicion.
16. **A** Correct Answer: felt ✓ Explanation: Felt is the correct stative linking verb to describe the tactile quality of a material. The fabric felt rough against her skin. Sounded and tasted refer to hearing and taste respectively, neither of which applies to texture.
17. **A** Correct Answer: could smell ✓ Explanation: Verbs of perception like smell are typically stative, so they are used with could rather than the continuous form in past contexts. I could smell something burning. Was smelling is generally incorrect in this context, and had smelled changes the temporal relationship incorrectly.
18. **A** Correct Answer: detected ✓ Explanation: Detected is a formal verb of perception meaning to notice or identify something using professional skill or instruments. The surgeon detected an irregularity. Tasted is physically inappropriate here, and sounded does not collocate with medical findings in this structure.
19. **A** Correct Answer: perceived ✓ Explanation: Perceived is a formal verb meaning to become aware of something through the senses or intuition. It is especially apt at C1 level for conveying subtle awareness. The audience perceived her unease. Smelled and tasted are physical sense verbs that do not suit this abstract context.

20. **A** Correct Answer: sounded ✓ Explanation: Sounded is the correct stative linking verb to describe the quality of someone's voice as perceived through hearing. His voice sounded strained. Felt relates to touch or internal emotions rather than auditory perception, and smelled refers to odor.

Part 3: Fill in the Blank

21. **smells|smelled** Correct Answer: smells / smelled ✓ Explanation: Smells (or smelled) is used here as a stative verb of sense, describing a perceived quality without a continuous form. The soup smells divine — not is smelling.
22. **make out|see** Correct Answer: make out / see ✓ Explanation: Make out is a sophisticated verb of vision meaning to perceive with difficulty, fitting the context of faint lighting. She could make out a figure in the dark.
23. **feels|felt** Correct Answer: feels / felt ✓ Explanation: Feels is a linking verb of sense used to describe a tactile quality. It links the subject to a description, similar to looks or sounds. The fabric feels coarse.
24. **could hear|heard** Correct Answer: could hear / heard ✓ Explanation: Could hear expresses a past ability to perceive a sound at a specific moment. Could hear is preferred over was hearing because hear is typically a stative verb of sense.
25. **detect|taste** Correct Answer: detect / taste ✓ Explanation: Detect or taste both express the ability to perceive subtle gustatory differences. Detect is particularly sophisticated, implying a trained, analytical sense. He can detect subtle flavours.
26. **sounds|seemed** Correct Answer: sounds / seemed ✓ Explanation: Sounds is used here as a linking verb of sense expressing how something is perceived or judged. It does not refer to literal hearing but to a cognitive impression. It sounds reasonable.
27. **could not taste|couldn't taste** Correct Answer: could not taste / couldn't taste ✓ Explanation: Could not taste expresses a temporary inability to perceive flavour. The stative verb taste is correctly used with could rather than the continuous form was not tasting.
28. **perceived|noticed** Correct Answer: perceived / noticed ✓ Explanation: Perceived is a high-register verb of sense meaning to become aware of something through careful attention. Unlike saw or noticed, it implies deeper cognitive or analytical awareness. They perceived a shift in tone.
29. **listening to|hearing** Correct Answer: listening to / hearing ✓ Explanation: Listening to implies active, intentional perception of sound, in contrast to hearing, which is passive. The context — sitting still and expecting — suggests deliberate attention, making listening to the stronger choice.

30. **sensed|felt** Correct Answer: sensed / felt  Explanation: Sensed and felt can both express intuitive perception — a non-physical awareness of something. At C1 level, sensed is the more precise choice as it emphasises instinctive detection beyond the literal senses. She sensed something was wrong.

Score Guide

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 27–30 Correct | Excellent! You have mastered this topic. |
| 23–26 Correct | Very good! Review the rules you missed. |
| 18–22 Correct | Good start. Re-read the lesson and examples. |
| 0–17 Correct | Study the lesson again before retaking the test. |