



PET COMMON WRITING MISTAKES 5

Look, see, or watch?

Common Learner Error look, see or watch?

see means to notice people and things with your eyes: She saw a big spider and screamed.
Jacqui saw the car drive up the road.

look is used when you are trying to see something or someone: I've looked everywhere,
but can't find my keys. I looked at the map to find the road.

watch means to look at something for a period of time, usually something which moves
or changes: He watched television all evening. I watched the football match with some
friends.

Note: While you are sitting in the cinema you watch a film, but before you go, you say
you are going to see a film and afterwards you say you have seen the film.

Instructions: Each of the sentences 1–5 contains a mistake made by intermediate students. Find and
correct the mistakes (one sentence contains two mistakes).

See

Example: I went to ~~watch~~ a film called The Motorcycle Diaries at my local cinema.

1. We sat on the sofa and saw a video of my friend's holiday in Italy.
2. Then we got on a tour bus because we wanted to watch the city.
3. I saw my finger and looked that I wasn't wearing my ring.
4. I watched my watch to check the time.
5. I couldn't find my wallet even though I saw everywhere.

Instructions: Complete the questions below by putting look, see or watch into the correct form in
each gap.

Example: How much time do you spend ...watching... television everyday?

1. What can you (a) if you (b) out of your bedroom window?
2. What is the best film you have ever?
3. Which sports do you most enjoy on television?
4. Which places in the world would you most like to?
5. Do you mind if people you while you are working?

Look, see, or watch?

1.

1. We sat on the sofa and ~~saw~~ **watched** a video of my friend's holiday in Italy.
2. Then we got on a tour bus because we wanted to ~~watch~~ **see** the city.
3. I ~~saw~~ looked at my finger and ~~looked~~ **saw** that I wasn't wearing my ring.
4. I ~~watched~~ **looked at** my watch to check the time.
5. I couldn't find my wallet even though I ~~saw~~ **had looked** everywhere

2.

- 1 (a) see (b) look
- 2 seen
- 3 watching
- 4 see
- 5 watch