

7 Verbs of perception

Verbs of perception, for example, **hear** and **watch**, can be followed by the infinitive without **to** or the **-ing** form.

I heard someone scream.

I watched him make a toy aeroplane.

I heard someone screaming.

I watched him making a toy aeroplane.

The infinitive form suggests that the verb action happens once and that the whole action is perceived.

The **-ing** form suggests the verb action goes on for some time, and only part of it is perceived.

Put the verbs in brackets in the infinitive (without **to**) or the **-ing** form.

- a. I heard my neighbours _____ (turn) off their television and _____ (go) to bed.
- b. I woke up at two in the morning. I could hear my neighbours _____ (have) an argument.
- c. When I looked through the window, I saw her _____ (read) a book.
- d. When she saw me _____ (come), she waved.
- e. She could feel her heart _____ (pound) as she neared the end of the race.
- f. Can you smell something _____ (burn)?
- g. When I came into the room, I saw her _____ (lean) casually against the fireplace.
- h. It was obvious that she hadn't heard me _____ (come) in. I saw her _____ (go) over to the drawer and _____ (take) out a gun.
- i. I've never seen anyone _____ (eat) as much as you do.
- j. As I woke up, I could hear my mother downstairs _____ (make) breakfast.

KEY

Exercise 7

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|-------------|-----------|------------|
| a. turn | go | f. burning |
| b. having | | g. leaning |
| c. reading | h. come | go take |
| d. coming | i. eat | |
| e. pounding | j. making | |