

# UNIT 66 See someone do and see someone doing

a) Study this example situation:

Tom got into his car and drove away. You saw this. You can say:

- I saw Tom **get** into his car and **drive** away.

In this structure we use the *infinitive* (**get**, **drive** etc.):

Someone **did** something  
I saw this

→ I saw someone **do** something

Remember that we use the infinitive without **to**:

- I saw her **go** out. (*not* 'to go out')

But after a *passive* ('he was seen' etc.) we use **to** + infinitive:

- She was seen **to go** out.

b) Now study this example situation:

Yesterday you saw Ann. She was waiting for a bus. You can say:

- I saw Ann **waiting** for a bus.

In this structure we use **-ing** (**waiting**):

Someone **was doing** something  
I saw this

→ I saw someone **doing** something

c) Now study the difference in meaning between the two structures:

'I saw him **do** something' = he did something (*past simple*) and I saw this. I saw the complete action from beginning to end:

- He **fell** to the ground. I saw this. → I saw him **fall** to the ground.
- The accident **happened**. We saw this. → We **saw** the accident **happen**.

'I saw him **doing** something' = he was doing something (*past continuous*) and I saw this. I saw him when he was in the middle of doing something. This does not mean that I saw the complete action:

- He **was walking** along the street. I saw this when I drove past in my car.
- I **saw** him **walking** along the street.

The difference is not always important. Sometimes you can use either form:

- I've never seen Tom **dance**. *or* I've never seen Tom **dancing**.

d) We use these structures especially with **see** and **hear**, and also with **watch**, **listen to**, **feel** and **notice**:

- I didn't **hear** you **come** in.
- She suddenly **felt** someone **touch** her on the shoulder.
- Did you **notice** anyone **go** out?
- I could **hear** it **raining**.
- The missing boys were last seen **playing** near the river.
- **Listen to** the birds **singing**!

After **smell** and **find** you can use the **-ing** structure only:

- Can you **smell** something **burning**?
- She **found** him **reading** her letters.

# UNIT 66 Exercises

66.1 Answer these questions beginning in the way shown.

Examples: 'Does Tom ever dance?' 'I've never seen him dance (or dancing) .....'  
 'How do you know I came in late?' 'I heard you come in late. .....

- 1 'Does Ann ever smoke?' 'I've never seen .....
- 2 'How do you know the man took the money?' 'I saw .....
- 3 'Did Jack lock the door?' 'Yes, I heard .....
- 4 'Did the bell ring?' 'I'm not sure. I didn't hear .....
- 5 'Does Tom ever swear (= use bad language)?' 'I've never heard .....
- 6 'How do you know Ann can play the piano?' 'I've heard .....
- 7 'Did Bill kick the dog?' 'Yes, I saw .....
- 8 'Did the boy fall into the water?' 'I didn't see .....

66.2 In each of these situations you and a friend saw, heard or smelt something. This is what you said at the time:

- 1 Look! There's Ann! She's waiting for a bus.
- 2 Look! There's Sue! She's playing tennis.
- 3 Look! There's Tom! He's having a meal in that restaurant.
- 4 Listen! That's Bill. He's playing the guitar.
- 5 I can smell something! The dinner's burning!
- 6 Look! There's Dave! He's talking to Charles.



Later you tell someone what you saw, heard or smelt.

- 1 We saw Ann waiting for a bus. .....
- 2 We saw .....
- 3 ..... in a restaurant.
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....

66.3 Complete these sentences. Use one of the following verbs in the correct form.

run explode ~~burn~~ slam cry ~~happen~~ sit collide open  
 tell crawl climb

- 1 Can you smell something burning .....
- 2 I saw the accident happen .....
- 3 We listened to the old man ..... his story from beginning to end.
- 4 Listen! Can you hear a child ..... ?
- 5 Did anybody see the two cars ..... ?
- 6 We watched the two men ..... across the garden, ..... a window and ..... through it into the house.
- 7 Everybody heard the bomb ..... . It was a tremendous noise.
- 8 Oh! I can feel something ..... up my leg! It must be an insect.
- 9 I heard someone ..... the door in the middle of the night. It woke me up.
- 10 We couldn't find Tom at first. In the end we found him ..... in the garden.