Look

Exceptional Expressions for Everyday Events

There are all sorts of looking that takes place over a school day. Students look up when there is a loud noise, they look out of the window, and they look for their books when it’s time to change subjects.

*Look* can be used as both a verb and noun. The most common use of *to look* is the process of using the eyes to see something. However, there are several other common uses for *to look*.

*Look* can also be used as a noun. For example, a teacher may ask to take a look at a student’s assignment.

Follow-Ups

- What is the difference between staring and glancing at a book?
- Would you imagine or observe a science experiment unfold?
- How is glancing at a book different than browsing a book?
- What does it mean to rubberneck or gawk?

The Spanish Connection

The word *look* is an Old English word *lócian*. The Spanish word for to look is *mirar*. *Look* and *mirar* are not cognates. However, some synonyms for look have Spanish cognates.

Word Changes

- The different ways a person can *look* at something are also reflected in many different idioms and common phrases. A person who is complacent about something is “looking the other way.” A person who is being optimistic is “looking on the bright side.” Someone who looks great “looks a million bucks.”
Look

Look as in to look quickly
- peek
- peep
- glimpse
- glance
- glint
- browse
- scan
- skim

Look as in to see
- see
- view
- witness
- view
- spy

Look as in to observe
- watch
- notice
- follow
- note
- observe
- peer

Look as in to search for something
- search
- find
- seek
- hunt
- forage

Look as in to imagine
- picture
- visualize
- envision
- imagine

Look as in to look critically
- examine
- inspect

IDIOMS
- Look out
- Look after
- Look a gift horse in the mouth
- Look alive/sharp
- Look down (one's) nose at/on
- Look forward to
- Look in on
- Look the other way
- Look up to
- Look on the bright side
- Things are looking up
- Look what the cat dragged in!
- Look who's talking!
- Looking for a needle in a haystack
- Look like a million dollars
- If looks could kill
- Look good on paper
- Look high and low
- By the looks of it
- Look me in the eye/face
- Once over
- Eyeball it

COMMON PHRASES
- Look after
- Look around
- Look at
- Look back
- Look down
- Look for
- look forward
- Look into
- Look over
- Look through
- Look up

THE SPANISH CONNECTION
- to examine / examinar
- to observe / observar
- to visualize / visualizar
- to imagine / imaginar

PROVERB
“Look before you leap.”
Look

Inflected Endings
- looks\(^n\)
- looked\(^n\)
- looking\(^n\)

Derivational Suffix
- looker\(^n\)

Compound Words
- Look used as a noun
  - look-see
- Look used as a verb
  - look-alike
  - looking-glass
  - lookout
  - overlook

Morphological Family for Look

\(^n\) Look used as a noun
\(^v\) Look used as a verb
Morphological Family for Look