

See somebody do and see somebody 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**.

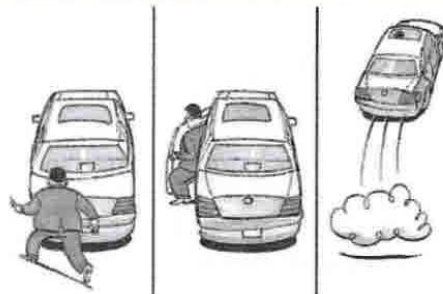
In this structure we use *get/drive/do*, etc. (*base form*):

Somebody **did something** + I saw this

I saw somebody **do something**.

Note that we do not use "to":

- We saw them **go out**. (*not to go*)



B

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*):

Somebody **was doing something** + I saw this

I saw somebody **doing something**.



C

Study the difference in meaning between the two structures:

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

- He **fell off the wall**. I saw this. → I saw him **fall off the wall**.
- The accident **happened**. Did you see this? → Did you see the accident **happen**?

2) 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 it. This does not mean 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**.

Sometimes the difference is not important and you can use either form:

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

D

We use these structures with *see* and *hear* and with a number of other verbs:







- I didn't **hear you come in**. (= you came in but I didn't hear this)
- Liz suddenly felt something **touch her on the shoulder**.
- Did you **notice anyone go out**?
- I could **hear it raining**. (= it was raining and I could hear it)
- The missing boys were last seen **playing near the river**.
- Listen to the birds singing!**
- Can you **smell something burning**?
- I **found Sue in my room reading my letters**.

Exercises

64.1 Complete the answers to the questions.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did anybody go out? 2. Has Jill arrived yet? 3. How do you know I took the money? 4. Did the doorbell ring? 5. Did I lock the door when I went out? 6. How did the woman fall? | <p>I don't think so. I didn't see <u>anybody go out</u>.</p> <p>Yes, I think I heard her _____.</p> <p>I know because I saw you _____.</p> <p>I'm not sure. I didn't hear _____.</p> <p>Yes, you did. I saw _____.</p> <p>I don't know. I didn't see _____.</p> |
|--|---|

64.2 In each of these situations you and a friend saw, heard, or smelled something. Look at the pictures and complete the sentences.

<p>1. Look! There's Ann.</p> 	<p>2. Look! There's Dave and Karen.</p> 	<p>3. Look! There's Claire.</p> 
<p>4. Listen! That's Bill.</p> 	<p>5. Can you smell something burning?</p> <p>Yes, it's our dinner!</p> 	<p>6. Look! There's Linda.</p> 

1. We saw Ann waiting for a bus.
2. We saw Dave and Karen _____.
3. We saw _____ in a restaurant.
4. We heard _____.
5. We could _____.
6. _____.

64.3 Complete these sentences. Use one of these verbs in the correct form:

climb come crawl cry explode open ride run say sing slam sleep tell

1. Listen to the birds singing.
2. I didn't hear you come in.
3. We listened to the old man _____ his story from beginning to end.
4. Listen! Can you hear a baby _____?
5. I looked out the window and saw Tim _____ his bike along the street.
6. I thought I heard somebody _____ "Hi!" so I turned around.
7. Oh! I can feel something _____ up my leg! It must be an insect.
8. Everybody heard the bomb _____. It was a tremendous noise.
9. We watched the two men _____ across the garden, _____ a window, and _____ through it into the house.
10. I heard somebody _____ the door in the middle of the night. It woke me up.
11. When we got home, we found a cat _____ on the kitchen table.