Watch/See/View/Look at

All four of these verbs are used to talk about vision, but often one is a better choice than the others to talk about certain objects or to express different meanings. These verbs have other meanings (for example, "see what I'm saying" means "understand me", "see it through" means "endure") but those meanings are not included here.

Watch/watched/watched (for a duration of time, objects that move or change)

- We stayed home and watched TV/a movie/*Jeopardy* [name of a TV show or channel].
- We sat on the porch, drank champagne, and watched the sunset.
- I watched birds building a nest for a couple minutes.
- I've watched your resume change and develop over the years and I'm very proud of you.

See/saw/seen (physical ability, awareness)

- I just saw Emily at the bar – I hadn't noticed before that she was here.
- We watched the movie for an hour, but we had to go to bed, so we didn't see the ending.
- On our trip to New York, we saw *Hamilton* [name of a performance] and two other plays I had never seen before.
- Can you see those small birds over there?
- Has she seen your resume yet? *She saw that I sent it, but she hasn't had time to read it.*

View/viewed/viewed (*formal for "see"*, perspective)

- She views life from a positive perspective.
- A museum is a place to view art.
- From this location, the biologist can view the birds without them realizing she's there.
- Do you wish to view your uploaded resume before submitting this application?

Look **at**/looked **at**/looked **at** (intention, attention, reading)

- Please look at these documents/these websites/these maps and give me your opinion on them.
- Do you want to look at my travel photos together?
- Quick! Look at this weird bird before it flies away.
- Has she looked at your resume? *She read through it, but she hasn't sent me any suggestions yet.*