



## Verb Patterns: Linking & Sense Verb Patterns: look, sound, feel, taste, smell

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- This soup tastes \_\_\_\_\_. What did you put in it?  
a) delicious  
b) deliciously  
c) deliciousness  
d) to delicious
- She looks \_\_\_\_\_ a professional dancer when she performs on stage.  
a) as  
b) like  
c) as if  
d) alike
- The music sounds \_\_\_\_\_ it's coming from next door.  
a) like if  
b) that  
c) to be  
d) as if
- He \_\_\_\_\_ the flowers in the garden carefully every morning.  
a) smells  
b) smells like  
c) is smelling  
d) smells as if
- The new teacher seems \_\_\_\_\_ about the subject.  
a) knowledgeable  
b) knowledge  
c) knowledgeably  
d) to knowledge
- This material feels \_\_\_\_\_ silk, but it's actually polyester.  
a) as  
b) likely  
c) alike  
d) like
- Why are you \_\_\_\_\_ the fabric? — I want to check if it's real cotton.  
a) feeling  
b) feeling like  
c) felt  
d) feeling as if
- The sky looks \_\_\_\_\_ it might rain later this afternoon.  
a) like that  
b) to be  
c) that  
d) as though
- The cake smells \_\_\_\_\_. I can't wait to try it!  
a) wonderfully  
b) wonderful  
c) wonder  
d) wondering
- He appeared \_\_\_\_\_ understand the problem immediately.  
a) like  
b) that  
c) to  
d) as

11. Your idea sounds \_\_\_\_ to me. Let's do it!  
a) great  
b) greatly  
c) greatness  
d) as great
12. The doctor \_\_\_\_ carefully at the X-ray before giving the diagnosis.  
a) looked like  
b) looked  
c) looked as if  
d) was looking like
13. You look \_\_\_\_ you haven't slept in days. Are you okay?  
a) to be  
b) that  
c) alike  
d) as if
14. The milk tastes \_\_\_\_\_. I think it's gone bad.  
a) sourly  
b) sour  
c) sourness  
d) to sour
15. She \_\_\_\_ the soup to check if it needed more salt.  
a) tasted like  
b) was tasting like  
c) tasted  
d) tasted as if
16. That explanation doesn't sound \_\_\_\_ to me. Can you check the facts?  
a) rightly  
b) right  
c) rightness  
d) as right
17. The old house looks \_\_\_\_ a castle from the outside.  
a) as  
b) as if  
c) like  
d) likely
18. I feel \_\_\_\_ we should wait before making a decision.  
a) like  
b) as if  
c) that  
d) to
19. The room felt \_\_\_\_ after they turned off the heating.  
a) coldly  
b) coldness  
c) cold  
d) to cold
20. Something in the fridge smells \_\_\_\_ rotten eggs. We need to find it!  
a) as  
b) likely  
c) as though  
d) like



## Answers

1. a) delicious
2. b) like
3. d) as if
4. a) smells
5. a) knowledgeable
6. d) like
7. a) feeling
8. d) as though
9. b) wonderful
10. c) to
11. a) great
12. b) looked
13. d) as if
14. b) sour
15. c) tasted
16. b) right
17. c) like
18. c) that
19. c) cold
20. d) like



# Explanations

## 1. “delicious” (a)

After the linking verb 'taste', we use an adjective (delicious), not an adverb. Linking verbs describe the subject's state, so the complement modifies the subject (the soup), not the verb.

## 2. “like” (b)

'Look like + noun' means 'have the appearance of'. 'Like' is followed by a noun phrase (a professional dancer). 'As if' would need a clause with a verb. 'Alike' is an adjective/adverb meaning 'similar' and cannot be used here.

## 3. “as if” (d)

'Sound as if + clause' is used when describing an impression followed by a full clause (subject + verb). 'As if' introduces a clause explaining how something sounds. 'Like if' is not standard English.

## 4. “smells” (a)

Here 'smell' is used as an action verb meaning 'to sniff intentionally', so it takes an object (the flowers) directly. This is different from the linking verb use ('It smells good'). As an action verb, 'smell' can take the continuous form, but simple present is correct here for a habitual action.

## 5. “knowledgeable” (a)

'Seem' is a linking verb followed by an adjective (knowledgeable), not an adverb. The adjective describes the subject (the teacher). 'Knowledgeably' is an adverb and cannot be used after a linking verb.

## 6. “like” (d)

'Feel like + noun' means 'have the texture/sensation of'. 'Like' is used before a noun (silk). 'As' cannot be used directly before a noun in this pattern. 'Likely' means 'probable' and doesn't fit here.

## 7. “feeling” (a)

Here 'feel' is used as an action verb meaning 'to touch in order to examine', so it takes the continuous form (are feeling) and a direct object (the fabric). This is different from linking verb 'feel' (I feel happy).

## 8. “as though” (d)

'Look as though + clause' describes an impression based on appearance. 'As though' introduces a clause (it might rain). 'Look that' is not a valid pattern in English.

## 9. “wonderful” (b)

'Smell' as a linking verb is followed by an adjective (wonderful), not an adverb. The adjective describes the subject (the cake), not the action of smelling.

## 10. “to” (c)

'Appear + to-infinitive' means 'seem to do something'. This pattern uses the to-infinitive (to understand) after 'appear'. 'Appear like' would need a noun, and 'appear that' is not standard in this construction.

## 11. “great” (a)

'Sound' as a linking verb takes an adjective (great), not an adverb. 'That sounds great' is a common conversational expression. 'Greatly' is an adverb and cannot follow linking verbs.

## 12. “looked” (b)

Here 'look at' is an action verb meaning 'to direct one's eyes toward something'. It takes a preposition (at) and an object (the X-ray). This is different from linking verb 'look' (She looks tired).

**13. “as if” (d)**

'Look as if + clause' describes someone's appearance suggesting a situation. 'As if' introduces a clause (you haven't slept). 'Look that' and 'look alike' cannot be used in this pattern.

**14. “sour” (b)**

'Taste' as a linking verb takes an adjective (sour) to describe the subject (the milk). 'Sourly' is an adverb and cannot be used after a linking verb.

**15. “tasted” (c)**

Here 'taste' is an action verb meaning 'to sample food deliberately'. It takes a direct object (the soup). This is different from the linking verb use ('The soup tastes good'), where it describes a quality of the subject.

**16. “right” (b)**

'Sound' as a linking verb takes an adjective (right). 'Rightly' is an adverb meaning 'correctly/justly' and cannot follow a linking verb. 'That doesn't sound right' means 'that doesn't seem correct'.

**17. “like” (c)**

'Look like + noun' describes a resemblance. 'Like' is followed by a noun phrase (a castle). 'As if' would require a clause with a verb. 'As' alone cannot introduce a noun phrase in this pattern.

**18. “that” (c)**

'Feel that + clause' means 'believe/think that'. Here the speaker expresses an opinion (we should wait), which requires 'that' to introduce the clause. 'Feel like' would mean 'have a desire to' or 'have the sensation of', which changes the meaning.

**19. “cold” (c)**

'Feel' as a linking verb takes an adjective (cold) to describe the subject (the room). 'Coldly' is an adverb (meaning 'in an unfriendly way') and does not describe the temperature of the room.

**20. “like” (d)**

'Smell like + noun' describes what something's odour resembles. 'Like' is followed by a noun phrase (rotten eggs). 'As though' would need a full clause. 'Likely' means 'probable' and doesn't fit this pattern.