

[si:m] *v*

1. 1) казаться, представляться

to seem good to smb. - казаться целесообразным/правильным/ кому-л.

it seems good to me to do it - мне кажется целесообразным/я считаю правильным/ сделать это

he seemed old to me - мне он показался старым

the plant seems to change colour - растение, кажется, меняет свой цвет

what seems easy to you seems difficult to me - то, что вам представляется лёгким, мне кажется трудным

if it seems (to be) necessary [right] to you we shall do it - если вы считаете, что это необходимо [правильно], мы это сделаем

this seems good, this seems as if it is good - по виду это неплохо

he seemed to be a good fellow [an honest man] - он производил впечатление хорошего [честного] человека

how does it seem to you? - какое на вас это производит впечатление?, что вы об этом думаете?

this wine seems rather good - это вино как будто бы неплохое

she seems tired - она выглядит усталой

he seems (to be) homesick - он, видимо, тоскует по родине

2) (в отрицательных предложениях) казаться, быть не в состоянии (что-л. сделать)

he cannot seem to do it - он не может /не имеет возможности/ это сделать

he can't seem to get a job - он, видимо, не в состоянии найти работу

he cannot seem to accept the fact - он, видимо, никак не хочет /не может/ примириться с этим фактом

I can't seem to get the ring off - кольцо почему-то не снимается (с пальца); мне что-то не удаётся снять кольцо

I could never seem to get enough money saved up - мне как-то всё не удавалось накопить достаточно денег

you do not seem to understand - вы, кажется, не понимаете (в чём дело)

he seemed not to hear me - он, казалось, не слышал меня

without seeming to exaggerate - как будто не преувеличивая

2. иметь какое-л. мнение, представление, ощущение *и т. п.*

I seem to have heard his name - мне помнится, я (когда-то) слышал его имя

I seem to hear a ring - кажется, звонят; мне послышался звонок

3. в сочетаниях:

it seems, it would seem, it should seem, there seems - кажется, очевидно, видимо; по-видимому

it seems not - по-видимому, нет

this, it seems, is his hobby - это, по-видимому, его конёк

it seems to be getting colder - кажется, становится холоднее

it would seem that something is wrong - очевидно, что-то произошло /случилось/

so we are to get nothing, it seems - оказывается, нам ничего не причитается

it seems you were lying - оказывается, вы лгали

it seems so, it would seem so, so it seems - по всей видимости, так

I've been out in the rain. - Yes, it seems so /so it seems/ - я попал под дождь. - Да, это заметно

there seemed - казалось

there seemed to be no one here - казалось, что здесь никого нет

it seems as if /as though/ - кажется, как будто (бы)

it seems as if the weather is getting better - кажется, /как будто бы/ погода налаживается

◇ things are not (always) what they seem - ≅ внешность обманчива

seem

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

seem [seem seems seemed seeming] BrE [siːm] ^m NAmE [siːm] ^m linking verb

1. ~ (to sb) (to be) sth (not used in the progressive tenses) to give the impression of being or doing sth

Syn: ↑appear

- + **adj.** You seem happy.
- Do whatever seems best to you.
- + **noun** He seems a nice man.
- ~ **like sth** It seemed like a good idea at the time.
- ~ **(as though...)** It always seemed as though they would get married.
- 'He'll be there, then?' ' **So it seems** (= people say so) .'
- **it seems that...** It seems that they know what they're doing.
- ~ **to do/be/have sth** They seem to know what they're doing.
- People aren't always what they seem to be.

2. ~ to do/be/have sth used to make what you say about your thoughts, feelings or actions less strong

- I seem to have left my book at home.
- I can't seem to (= I've tried, but I can't) get started today.

3. it seems | it would seem used to suggest that sth is true when you are not certain or when you want to be polite

- ~ **(that)...** It would seem that we all agree.
- + **adj.** It seems only reasonable to ask students to buy a dictionary.

Word Origin:

Middle English (also in the sense 'suit, befit, be appropriate'): from Old Norse *scæma* 'to honour', from *scæmr* 'fitting'.

Thesaurus:

seem linking verb (not used in the progressive tenses)

- He seems like a nice man.

appear • • look • • sound • • feel • • come across • • come over • • strike sb (as sth) •

seem/appear/look/sound/feel **odd/OK/nice**, etc.

seem/appear/look **to be** sth

seem/look/sound/feel **like** sth

seem/look/sound/feel **as if/as though**...

Language Bank:

impersonal

Giving opinions using impersonal language

It is vital that ▪ more is done to prevent the illegal trade in wild animals. ◊▪ (Compare: *We have to do more to stop people trading wild animals illegally.* ▪)

It is clear that ▪ more needs to be done to protect biodiversity. ◊▪ (Compare: *We clearly need to do more to protect biodiversity.* ▪)

It is unfortunate that ▪ the practice of keeping monkeys as pets still continues. ◊▪ (Compare: *It's absolutely terrible that people still keep monkeys as pets.* ▪)

It is difficult ▪ for many people **to** ▪ understand the reasons why certain individuals choose to hunt animals for sport. ◊▪ (Compare: *I can't understand why anyone would want to kill animals for fun.* ▪)

▪ Unfortunately, **it would seem that** ▪ not enough is being done to support tiger conservation. ◊▪ (Compare: *Governments aren't doing enough to help tiger conservation.* ▪)

There is no doubt that ▪ the greatest threat to polar bears comes from global warming. ◊▪ (Compare: *I believe that the greatest threat...* ▪)

Language Banks at ↑opinion, ↑perhaps, ↑vital

Language Bank:

opinion

Giving your personal opinion

In my opinion ▪, everyone should have some understanding of science.

▪ Everyone should, **in my opinion** ▪, have some understanding of science.

It seems to me that ▪ many people in this country have a poor understanding of science.

▪ This is, **in my view** ▪, the result of a failure of the scientific community to get its message across.

▪ Another reason why so many people have such a poor understanding of science is, **I believe** ▪, the lack of adequate funding for science in schools.

▪ Smith argues that science is separate from culture. **My own view is that** ▪ science belongs with literature, art, philosophy and religion as an integral part of our culture.

In this writer's opinion ▪, the more the public know about science, the less they will fear and distrust it.

Synonyms at ↑think

Language Banks at ↑according to, ↑argue, ↑impersonal, ↑nevertheless, ↑perhaps

Language Bank:

perhaps

Making an opinion sound less definite

▪ Most cybercrime involves traditional crimes, such as theft and fraud, being committed in new ways. Phishing is **perhaps** ▪ / **possibly** ▪ / **probably** ▪ the best-known example of this.

▪ **It seems** ▪ / **appears** ▪ that the more personal data which organizations collect, the more opportunity there is for this data to be lost or stolen.

It seems clear that ▪ introducing national ID cards would do little to prevent identity theft.

It could be argued that ▪ the introduction of national ID cards might actually make identity theft easier.

It is possible that ▪ / **It may be that** ▪ the only way to protect ourselves against DNA identity theft is to avoid the creation of national DNA databases.

Language Banks at ↑impersonal, ↑opinion

Example Bank:

• I can't seem to get started today.

• It seems that they know what they're doing.

• People aren't always what they seem to be.

seem

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

seem **S1 W1** /si:m BrE " AmE " verb [linking verb, not in progressive]

[Date: 1100-1200; Language: Old Norse; Origin: s:ma 'to be appropriate to', from s:mr 'appropriate']

1. if something seems to be true, there are qualities or facts that make people think it is true:

" Ann didn't seem very sure.

" It seems a foolish decision now.

seem to do something

" The rainbow seemed to end on the hillside.

seem important/right/strange etc to somebody

" Doesn't that seem weird to you?

it seems to somebody (that)

" It seems to me you don't have much choice.

it seems (that)

" It seemed that Freeman had killed the man, and dumped the body in the lake.

it seems likely/unlikely/reasonable/clear (that)

" It seems likely that he will miss Ireland's next match.

seem like

" Teri seemed like a nice girl.

" Well, it seemed like a good idea at the time.

" We waited for what seemed like hours.

seem as if/as though/like

" It seemed as if the end of the world had come.

" It seems like you're catching a cold, Taylor.

" 'So Bill's leaving her?' 'So it seems (=that seems to be true).'

REGISTER

In written English, people often prefer to use **appear** rather than **seem**, because it is more formal:

▪ It appears that the man had been murdered.

2. **can't/couldn't seem to do something** used to say that you have tried to do something but cannot do it:

" I just can't seem to relax.

3. used to make what you are saying less strong or certain, and more polite

seem to do something

" I seem to have lost my car keys.

it seems (that)/it would seem (that)

" It would seem that someone left the building unlocked.

• • •

GRAMMAR

Seem can be followed by an adjective or by an adjective and noun:

▪ She seemed happy.

▪ He seems a nice man.

Seem can also be followed by **like** and a noun or by **like** and an adjective and noun:

▪ It seemed like a miracle.

▪ He seems like a nice man.

Seem can also be followed by a verb in the infinitive:

▪ His story seems to be true.

► **Seem** can be followed by **as if** or **as though** but not just by **as**:

▪ It seems a small thing (NOT It seems as a small thing), but it's very important.

▪ It seemed as if he wanted us to leave (NOT It seemed as he wanted ...).

• • •

THESAURUS

▪ **appear** a more formal word for 'seem': These reports appear to be unfounded.

▪ **look** to seem to be something, often because of what can be seen: The future looks bleak. | He looked pleased.

▪ **sound** used to say that something or someone seems to be something because of what you have heard or read about them, or because of the noise or voice that you hear: This study sounds very ambitious. | They heard what sounded like a blow.

▪ **come across as something** to seem to have particular qualities: He comes across as a very sensitive man.

seem

Freakuency Pack

12500 **135**^{MCW}

15000 **175**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** **SEEM** 238356

seem 64569

seemed 80301

seeming 2526

seemingly 8375

seems 82585

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

23546 **1298**³²³⁶¹ *vvi*

23805 **1308**³²¹⁹⁶ *vvO*

7 **316434**⁷ *nn1*

5 **380121**⁵ *jj*