

ap·pear

S2 W1

/ə'piə \$ ə'piə/

verb

- 1 **seem** [linking verb, not in progressive] SEEM used to say how something seems, especially from what you know about it or from what you can see:

appear to be something

Police say there appear to be signs of a break-in.

appear to do something

The survey appears to contradict motor industry claims.

it appears (that)

It appears that all the files have been deleted.

*Police have found **what appear to be** human remains.*

*He tried to **make it appear that** she had committed suicide.*

It may be less useful than it appears at first.

so it would appear (= used to say that something seems likely to be true, although you are not completely sure)

- 2 **give impression** [linking verb, not in progressive] used to say that someone or something seems to have a particular quality or feeling:

*He tried hard to **appear calm**.*

I don't want to appear rude.

*The right colours can **make** a small room **appear** much bigger.*

- 3 **start to be seen** [intransitive always + adverb/preposition] APPEAR to start to be seen, to arrive, or to exist in a place, especially suddenly:

Two faces appeared at our window.

A man suddenly appeared from behind a tree.

Small cracks appeared in the wall.

It was nearly an hour before Sweeney appeared in the pub.

appear from nowhere/out of nowhere (= appear suddenly and unexpectedly)

The car seemed to appear from nowhere.

- 4 | film/tv programme etc** [intransitive always + adverb/preposition] PERFORM to take part in a film, play, concert, television programme etc:

appear in a film/play

She has already appeared in a number of films.

appear on television/stage

He appeared on national television to deny the claims.

appear at a theatre etc

- 5 | book/newspaper etc** [intransitive always + adverb/preposition] PUBLICIZE/MAKE KNOWN to be written or shown on a list, in a book or newspaper, in a document etc:

The story appeared in all the national newspapers.

*Some of the material used has **appeared in print** before* (= has been published) .

- 6 | available/known** [intransitive always + adverb/preposition] to become widely available or known about:

The new range will be appearing in shops in the autumn.

New courses are appearing every year.

- 7 | law court/meeting** [intransitive always + adverb/preposition] TRIAL to go to a law court or other official meeting to give information, answer questions etc:

*The three men are due to **appear in court** tomorrow.*

appear before a court/judge/committee etc

She appeared before Colchester magistrates charged with

attempted murder.

appear for somebody/on behalf of somebody (= to be the legal representative for someone)

Sir Nicholas Gammon QC appeared on behalf of the defendant.

THESAURUS

appear to start to be seen, especially suddenly: *A few small white clouds appeared on the horizon.*

pop up to appear very suddenly: *A woman's face popped up from the other side of the fence.*

become visible to gradually start to be able to be seen: *The shape of the baby's head gradually became visible on the screen.*

come into view if something comes into view, you start to see it as you move closer to it, or it gets closer to you: *The white cliffs of Dover came into view.*

come out if the sun, moon, or the stars come out, they suddenly appear: *The sun came out from behind a cloud.*

loom/loom up if a large frightening object or person looms, they appear suddenly: *The dark shape of the castle loomed up out of the mist. | The man's face suddenly loomed over him.*

resurface to appear again after being lost or missing: *The girl's father has resurfaced after six years of no contact.*

Word origin

Date: 1200–1300

Language: Old French

Origin: *aparoir*, from Latin *apparere*, from *ad-* 'to' + *parere* 'to show yourself'

