

STATIVE VERBS

Stative verbs are verbs which describe a state rather than an action, and so do not usually have a continuous tense. These verbs are:

- Verbs of the senses (**see, hear, smell, taste, feel, look, sound, seem, appear, etc.**)
e.g. You look gorgeous today.
- Verbs of perception (**know, believe, understand, realise, remember, forget, etc.**)
e.g. They know what to do.
- Verbs which express feelings and emotions (**like, love, hate, enjoy, prefer, detest, desire, want, etc.**)
e.g. Susan prefers to go to the theatre than to the cinema.
- Some other verbs (**be, contain, include, belong, fit, need, matter, cost, own, want, owe, weigh, wish (θέλω), have, keep (συνεχίζω), etc.**)
e.g. The tour includes meals and transportation.

Some of these verbs can be used in continuous tenses, but with a difference in meaning.

Present simple	Present continuous
THINK I think they will win the championship this year. (=believe)	They are thinking of buying a laptop. (=are considering)
HAVE They have a good coach. (=own, possess)	They are having a wonderful season. (=are experiencing) He is having a bath. (=is taking) They are having their breakfast now. (=are eating)
SEE I can see the tower from here. (=it is visible) I can see what you're trying to do. (=understand)	Kelly is seeing her boss at one o'clock. (=is meeting)
TASTE The cake tastes fruity. (=it is, has the flavour of)	Mum is tasting the food to see if it's salty.
SMELL The cake smells very good. (=has the aroma)	Aunt Mary is smelling the roses. (=is sniffing)
APPEAR They appear to be tired. (=seem to)	My favourite actor is appearing in this play. (=is performing)
FIT This dress fits me very well. (=is the right size)	The technicians are fitting a new scoreboard at the stadium. (=are installing)

- The verb **enjoy** can be used in continuous tenses to express specific preferences.
e.g. He really enjoys watching football. (general preference) BUT He's enjoying the game very much. (specific preference)
- The verbs **look** (when we refer to somebody's appearance), **feel** (experience a particular emotion), **hurt** and **ache** can be used in simple or continuous tenses with no difference in meaning. **He looks good= He is looking good.**

EXERCISE

Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or the present continuous.

1. A: Why.....(you smell) the jacket, Ben?
B: To see if it's made of real leather or not.
2. A: You.....(look) a bit unhappy. Sarah. Are you alright?
B: Don't worry. I'm fine.
3. A: This sauce.....(taste) wonderful! What is it made with?
B: Tomato and basil.
4. I.....(think) of starting a campaign to plant more trees in our area.
B: What a good idea.
5. A:.....(you/have) a barbecue on Friday?

B: Weather permitting, yes.

6. Are you going to go to the concert tonight?

B: I.....(want) to go but I can't afford to, unfortunately.

7. A: Why.....(you/feel) so sad?

B: My dog died yesterday.

8. A: I.....(wish) I had more money.

B: But money doesn't buy you happiness!

9. A: What happened?

B: It.....(seem) there's been a robbery.

10. A: Why do you want to speak to Wayne?

B: He.....(owe) me 10 euros.