Some stative verbs (see, smell, taste, feel, think, have, etc.) have continuous forms but there is a difference in meaning.

State	Action
*I **think** she's rich.* (= I believe)	*I'm **thinking** about your offer.* (= I'm considering)
*The milk **tastes** awful.* (= has a flavour)	*He's **tasting** the sauce; it might need some salt.* (= he's trying its flavour)
*He **has** a pet dog.* (= he owns)	*He's **having** problems at work at the moment.* (= experiencing)
*This cloth **feels** like velvet.* (= has the texture)	*She's **feeling** her way in the dark.* (= she's finding her way)
*I **see** you're in trouble.* (= I understand)	*I'm **seeing** my lawyer tonight.* (= I'm visiting)
*The kitchen **smells** of burnt meat.* (= has the scent of)	*Why **are you smelling** the food?* (= inhaling the odour of)
*He **comes** from Spain.* (= he was born in)	*He's **coming** from Spain.* (= he's travelling from)
*I **love** holidays.* (in general)	*I'm **loving** this holiday.* (= I'm enjoying; specific)
*Your hair **looks** great.* (= it appears)	*She's **looking** at some old photographs.* (= she's examining)
*The baby **weighs** 5 kilos.* (= it is)	*I'm **weighing** myself on my new scales.* (= I'm finding out my weight)
*Ann **is** very tall.* (= has the quality)	*Ann **is being** very kind to me these days.* (= she's behaving)

9 Underline the correct item.

1 I **see** / **am seeing** that the situation is out of control.
2 The sausages **are tasting** / **taste** delicious.
3 **Do you enjoy** / **Are you enjoying** the party?
4 You haven't said a word all morning. What **are you thinking** / **do you think** about?
5 He **has** / **is having** a Siamese cat.
6 These flowers **are smelling** / **smell** nice.
7 I **don't know** / **am not knowing** where she keeps the keys.
8 These silk sheets **feel** / **are feeling** lovely and smooth.
9 Why **do you smell** / **are you smelling** the milk? Do you think it has gone off?
10 Anna is Italian. She **is coming** / **comes** from Italy.
11 That dress **looks** / **is looking** nice on you.
12 If you **don't look** / **aren't looking** at that comic book, I'd like to see it.
13 The doctor **weighs** / **is weighing** the baby.
14 Mary **is** / **is being** very naughty these days.

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

1 A: I .....'m thinking..... **(think)** about going to see *Green Day* in concert next month.
B: Great! I ..... **(think)** they're the best. I'll come with you.
2 A: Why ..... **(you/weigh)** yourself?
B: I want to see if I ..... **(weigh)** enough for my height.
3 A: Your baby brother ..... **(be)** adorable!
B: Yes, but today he ..... **(be)** really naughty. He keeps drawing on the wall.
4 A: I see you ..... **(have)** a new mobile phone.
B: Yes, but I ..... **(have)** problems with it at the moment.
5 A: Why ..... **(you/taste)** the soup? It's not ready yet.
B: To see if it ..... **(taste)** sweet enough for the children.
6 A: Do you know where Mike ..... **(come)** from?
B: He's from Glasgow. Actually, he's there at the moment but he ..... **(come)** back tomorrow.
7 A: I ..... **(see)** Charlotte has toothache.
B: Yes. She's in a lot of pain. She ..... **(see)** her dentist this afternoon, though.

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

1 A: I .....*see*..... **(see)** you still have a toothache.
B: Yes, I do. Actually, I .... **(see)** my dentist later.

2 A: I ..... **(think)** of visiting Jim this afternoon.
B: Don't bother. I .... **(think)** he's on a business trip.

3 A: Why ..... **(Greg/be)** so rude today?
B: I have no idea. He .... **(be)** usually very polite.

4 A: Why ..... **(you/taste)** the sauce? Does it need more pepper?
B: No. It .... **(taste)** great the way it is.

5 A: Why .... **(you/smell)** the milk?
B: Because it ..... **(smell)** off. We should throw it away.

6 A: I see you .... **(have)** a new mobile phone.
B: Yes, but I ..... **(have)** trouble understanding how it works.

23 Use the verbs to complete the sentences. Use the *present simple* or the *present continuous*.

fit	**look**	**have**	**smell**	**think**
appear	**prefer**	**not/know**	**not/like**	**not/belong**

1 Aya .....*prefers*..... classical music to jazz and pop.
2 He ..... new cabinets in the kitchen.
3 She ..... so relieved now that the test is over.
4 Tom ..... Indian food. It's too hot and spicy for him.
5 The new rock band .... on stage tonight.
6 This isn't Ahmed's coat. It .... to him.
7 The food ..... nice.
8 The funfair rides are exciting. We .... a great time!
9 I ..... where Jane is at the moment.
10 The Browns .... of going to the theatre tonight.

24 Underline the correct item.

1 The children **are having** / **have** so much fun at the circus!
2 Fiona **is looking** / **looks** at some photos.
3 This jacket **is fitting** / **fits** you perfectly. You should buy it.
4 Ron **is wanting** / **wants** to become a pilot.
5 I **am not understanding** / **don't understand** the meaning of that word.
6 He **is loving** / **loves** playing football.
7 I **am thinking** / **think** of buying a new CD.

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