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Stative Verbs List

Some verbs are only (or mostly) used in simple tenses, and are not used in continuous tenses. An example of a simple tense is the present simple, or the past simple. An example of a continuous tense is the present continuous or past continuous. These verbs are called stative, or state verbs. A verb which isn't stative is called a dynamic verb, and is usually an action. Often stative verbs are about liking or disliking something, or about a mental state, not about an action.

Verb	Correct	Not Correct
agree	She didn't agree with us.	~~She wasn't agreeing with us.~~
appear	It appears to be raining.	~~It is appearing to be raining.~~
believe	I don't believe the news.	~~I am not believing the news.~~
belong	This book belonged to my grandfather.	~~This book was belonging to my grandfather.~~
concern	This concerns you.	~~This is concerning you.~~
consist	Bread consists of flour, water and yeast.	~~Bread is consisting of flour, water and yeast.~~
contain	This box contains a cake.	~~This box is containing a cake.~~
depend	It depends on the weather.	~~It's depending on the weather.~~
deserve	He deserves to pass the exam.	~~He is deserving to pass the exam.~~
disagree	I disagree with you.	~~I am disagreeing with you.~~
dislike	I have disliked mushrooms for years.	~~I have been disliking mushrooms for years.~~
doubt	I doubt what you are saying.	~~I am doubting what you are saying.~~
feel (=have an opinion)	I don't feel that this is a good idea.	~~I am not feeling that this is a good idea.~~
fit	This shirt fits me well.	~~This shirt is fitting me well.~~
hate	Julie's always hated dogs.	~~Julie's always been hating dogs.~~
hear	Do you hear music?	~~Are you hearing music?~~

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imagine	I imagine you must be tired.	~~I am imagining you must be tired.~~
impress	He impressed me with his story.	~~He was impressing me with his story.~~
include	This cookbook includes a recipe for bread.	~~This cookbook is including a recipe for bread.~~
involve	The job involves a lot of travelling.	~~The job is involving a lot of travelling.~~
know	I've known Julie for ten years.	~~I've been knowing Julie for ten years.~~
like	I like reading detective stories.	~~I am liking reading detective stories.~~
love	I love chocolate.	~~I'm loving chocolate.*~~
matter	It doesn't matter.	~~It isn't mattering.~~
mean	'Enormous' means 'very big'.	~~'Enormous' is meaning 'very big'.~~
measure (=be long)	This window measures 150cm.	~~This window is measuring 150cm.~~
mind	She doesn't mind the noise.	~~She isn't minding the noise.~~
need	At three o'clock yesterday I needed a taxi.	~~At three o'clock yesterday I was needing a taxi.~~
owe	I owe you £20.	~~I am owing you £20.~~
own	She owns two cars.	~~She is owning two cars.~~
prefer	I prefer chocolate ice cream.	~~I am preferring chocolate ice cream.~~
promise	I promise to help you tomorrow.	~~I am promising to help you tomorrow.~~
realise	I didn't realise the problem.	~~I wasn't realising the problem.~~
recognise	I didn't recognise my old friend.	~~I wasn't recognising my old friend.~~
remember	He didn't remember my name.	~~He wasn't remembering my name.~~
seem	The weather seems to be improving.	~~The weather is seeming to be improving.~~
sound	Your idea sounds great.	~~Your idea is sounding great.~~
suppose	I suppose John will be late.	~~I'm supposing John will be late.~~

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surprise	The noise surprised me.	~~The noise was surprising me.~~
understand	I don't understand this question.	~~I'm not understanding this question.~~
want	I want to go to the cinema tonight.	~~I am wanting to go to the cinema tonight.~~
weigh (=have weight)	This cake weighs 450g.	~~This cake is weighing 450g.~~
wish	I wish I had studied more.	~~I am wishing I had studied more.~~

Some verbs can be both stative and dynamic:

be	be is usually a stative verb, but when it is used in the continuous it means 'behaving' or 'acting' you are stupid = it's part of your personality you are being stupid = only now, not usually
have	have (stative) = own I have a car have (dynamic) = part of an expression I'm having a party / a picnic / a bath / a good time / a break
see	see (stative) = see with your eyes / understand I see what you mean I see her now, she's just coming along the road see (dynamic) = meet / have a relationship with I've been seeing my boyfriend for three years I'm seeing Robert tomorrow
taste (also: smell, feel, look)	taste (stative) = has a certain taste This soup tastes great taste (dynamic) = the action of tasting The chef is tasting the soup
think	think (stative) = have an opinion I think that coffee is great think (dynamic) = consider, have in my head what are you thinking about? I'm thinking about my next holiday

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