Stative Verbs

Verbs describing a permanent state (stative verbs) do not normally have continuous forms. These are:
(1) verbs of the senses : see, hear, smell, feel, taste etc (We often use can or could with these verbs. eg. *Can you see that tall boy over there?)* **The verbs look, watch and listen express deliberate actions and can be used in continuous forms.** eg. *Be quiet please! I'm listening to the news.* But: *I can't hear you. Can you speak louder, please?* **The verbs feel and hurt can be used in either continuous or simple forms, though.**
eg. A: *How are you feeling today? or How do you feel today?*
B: *My leg is hurting. or My leg hurts.*
(2) verbs of opinion : agree, believe, consider etc (3) verbs of emotions : feel, forgive, hate, like, love etc
(4) other verbs : appear (=seem), be, belong, fit (= be the right shape and size for sth), have (=possess), know, look (= appear), need, prefer, require, want, weigh, wish etc
eg. *He knows where Peter is.* (**not** ~~is knowing~~)

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 plan. (= I'm considering)
The milk **tastes** awful. (= it has a bad 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** dinner now. (= he's eating)
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 smell)	Why **are you smelling** your food? (= trying the smell 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.	Ann **is being** very kind to me these days. (= she's behaving)

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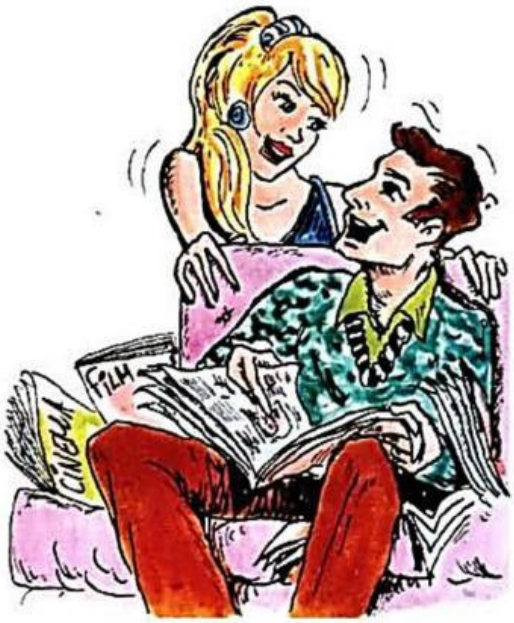
6 Underline the correct item.

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 this 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. Why are you feeling/do you feel your pockets? Have you lost anything?
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. Paul listens/is listening to a new record in his room.
13. If you don't look/aren't looking at that comic book, I'd like to see it.
14. Joan weighs/is weighing 50 kilos.
15. Mary is/is being very naughty these days.

7 Fill in with Present Simple or Continuous.

Sue : What 1) ..*are you doing*.. (you/do) now?
Mark : I 2) ..... (look) through these old film magazines. Look, here's an old picture of Jack Nicholson.
Sue : Oh, I 3) ..... (think) he 4) ..... (look) awful! And his suit 5) ..... (not/fit) him properly.
Mark : Yes, I 6) ..... (agree). And he 7) ..... (appear) to be really angry. I wonder what he 8) .... (think) about.
Sue : He 9) ..... (be) in that new film that's on at the Odeon now, isn't he?
Mark : Yes, I saw it last night. He 10) ..... (look) very different now. He 11) ..... (weigh) a lot more.
Sue : I 12) ..... (hope) it's a good film. I 13) .... (see) it tonight. Stuart 14) .... (take) me. Actually, he 15) ..... (be) very nice to me these days.
Mark : He probably 16) ..... (want) to borrow some money.
Sue : I 17) ..... (see). That explains it.



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