

THE PRESENT PROGRESSIVE AND STATIVE VERBS

STATIVE VERBS (VERBS WITH NO PROGRESSIVE FORM)

Stative verbs are verbs that **cannot be used in any of the progressive tenses**. This means that they **cannot be used in the present progressive**. The verbs in the list below are some of the most common stative verbs.

Be	Hate	Need	See*
Believe	Hear	Prefer	Surprise
Belong	Know	Realize	Think*
Forget	Like	Recognize	Understand
Have*	Love	Remember	Want

Have, see and think can have both **stative and progressive** meanings:

(a) I think that he is the best candidate.

(The verb **THINK** has **no progressive form** when it introduces an **opinion** or a **prediction**)

(b) He is thinking about the meeting at noon.

(The verb **THINK** can be used in the **progressive** tenses when it expresses the **act of thinking about something**.)

(c) I have a car.

(The form **HAVE** **no progressive** form when it expresses **possession**.)

(d) We are having a good time.

(The verb **HAVE** is often used in the **progressive** tenses in the **expressions** like **have a good time, have fun, have a hard time, and have difficulty**.)

(e) We are having dinner right now.

(The verb **HAVE** is also used in the **progressive** tenses when it means **eat or drink**.)

(f) Peter sees the stain on my tshirt.

(The verb **SEE** has **no progressive** form when it expresses **visual perception**)

(g) The lawyer is seeing a client right now.

(The verb **SEE** can be used when it means **meet someone or date someone**)

Complete the sentences by using either the simple present or the present progressive form of the verb in parentheses.

1. She (think) that he (be) crazy.
2. The briefcase (belong) to the teacher.
3. I (understand) the reason why Anthony said that. But I still (believe) that he (be) completely wrong.
4. Yes, I (have) the documents in my briefcase. But my wife and I (have) dinner right now. I will call you back later.
5. Ron and Mary (see) each other now. They have been dating for two weeks.
6. I (like) pizza more than any other type of fast food.
7. She started reading the Bible a few weeks ago, and now she says that she (believe) in God.
8. I (know) the man to whom you are referring.
9. I (think) that I should look for a new job.
10. I (not/recognise) this guy. Who is that?
11. My father's car (need) an oil change. The engine is running really badly.
12. There (be) five members of the team from Calgary. They all (have) the same accent in French.
13. Charlie Lawrence (know) a lot of famous people. His father (be) a millionaire.
14. I (not/believe) the news.
15. I really (want) to see him right now. He should explain why he did this.
16. I am so tired nowadays so I (need) a vacation.
17. you (hear) the song? I can't figure out who sings the song.
18. I (hate) it when my parents argue.
19. Can we continue working together later on? I (prefer) working on my own right now.
20. I (not/understand) this question. Can you explain it again?