

## 1 Find and underline these verbs in the article below.

believe hope know like own think understand

- 1 Scientists believe the Earth is 4.6 billion years old. However, the mountains, valleys, hills, rivers, deserts and forests we see today are much younger than that. For example, Mount Everest is about 60 million years old and the Amazon rainforest is only 10 million years old. The youngest sea in the world is the Baltic Sea, about 15,000 years old.
- 2 The Earth is always changing because of volcanoes, earthquakes and, of course, wind and rain. Some of these changes are very slow and others are quick. Water and ice can make very big changes to the planet. For example, glaciers (rivers of ice) can cut through mountains and make lakes and deep valleys. Eighty or more volcanoes are under the oceans and sometimes they become new islands. This is happening in the South Pacific, near Tonga.
- 3 It's normal for our planet to change, but at the moment, scientists think it's changing faster than usual. They don't understand everything that's happening, but they know that some deserts (places where it doesn't rain much) are growing, and many forests are getting smaller. The weather is getting wetter in some places and drier in others, and there are more big storms.
- 4 However, these changes are not bad for everyone. Because the Arctic is getting warmer, some people in Greenland now own businesses and sell vegetables they grow on their land. That wasn't possible so far north 50 years ago. Farmers in Greenland like the warm weather and hope it will continue.

The verbs above are about thinking, feeling and owning things. We don't usually use them in the continuous form.

## 2 Which of these words are also about thinking, feeling and owning things?

- |                                    |                               |                                 |                               |                               |                               |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> belong to | <input type="checkbox"/> buy  | <input type="checkbox"/> climb  | <input type="checkbox"/> feel | <input type="checkbox"/> hate | <input type="checkbox"/> have | <input type="checkbox"/> love |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mean      | <input type="checkbox"/> need | <input type="checkbox"/> prefer | <input type="checkbox"/> run  | <input type="checkbox"/> sing | <input type="checkbox"/> want | <input type="checkbox"/> work |

# GRAMMAR REFERENCE AND PRACTICE

## UNIT 2

### VERBS WE DON'T USUALLY USE IN THE CONTINUOUS

There are some verbs which we don't normally use in the present continuous:

- Verbs of thinking: *believe, understand, know, think, mean, hope.*  
*Scientists believe the Earth is 4.6 billion years old. (not Scientists are believing ...)*
- Verbs of liking and not liking: *like, hate, love, want, need, prefer.*  
*I like those monkeys over there. (not I'm liking ...)*
- Verbs of owning: *own, belong, have.*  
*That coat belongs to me. (not That coat's belonging ...)*
- Verbs to describe sensations: *see, feel, hear, smell, taste.*  
*The water feels very cold.*  
However, we can use the present continuous to say how someone looks or feels now.  
*How do you feel today? I feel better.*  
or *How are you feeling today? I'm feeling better.*  
We often use *can* with these verbs.  
*I can hear the sea from my bedroom. (not I'm hearing)*
- When *think* means 'have an opinion' about something, we do not use the continuous.  
*Scientists think there are about 1,000 wild pandas left. (not Scientists are thinking ...)*  
However, when *think* means 'consider', we use the continuous.  
*I'm thinking of working in a zoo when I'm older.*

### Practice

1 Complete the table with the verbs.

believe   buy   climb   feel  
hate   like   make   mean  
need   own   run   sing  
understand   want   work

Verbs we can use in the continuous

*run*

Verbs we don't normally use in the continuous

*need*



2 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 0 Jack's behind that tree. I can see / 'm seeing him.  
1 I *know* / 'm *knowing* the names of all the rivers in my country.  
2 My brother *learns* / 's *learning* about the weather at the moment.  
3 You *need* / 're *needing* to do your homework before Tuesday.  
4 You're very quiet. What *do you think* / *are you thinking* about?  
5 My friends *don't play* / *aren't playing* football today. It's cold.  
6 Can you say that again? We *don't understand* / *aren't understanding*.  
7 *Can you hear* / *Are you hearing* that strange noise?



3 Write complete sentences. Use the present simple or the present continuous.

- 0 Shh! I / think.  
*Shh! I'm thinking.*  
1 I / not understand / this exercise.  
2 My friends / think football is boring.  
3 What / you / do right now?  
4 We / not want to watch the film.  
5 That dog / belong to my cousin.  
6 Penguins / not feel / the cold weather.  
7 I / not like this book very much.

**3 Complete the sentences using the present simple or present continuous of the verbs in brackets.**

- 1 Can you turn the TV off? I \_\_\_\_\_ (hate) that programme!
- 2 Mr Jones \_\_\_\_\_ (want) to talk to you. Are you free now?
- 3 Why \_\_\_\_\_ (you sing)? I \_\_\_\_\_ (need) to study!
- 4 That book \_\_\_\_\_ (belong) to me. It's not my friend's.
- 5 I \_\_\_\_\_ (love) this T-shirt. Can I buy it, Mum?
- 6 I can't talk now, sorry. I \_\_\_\_\_ (run) late.

**4 Correct the mistakes in the sentence.**

- 1 There are things in my bag that I'm needing at the moment.
- 2 The weather's cold at the moment, but I'm preferring it like that.
- 3 I'm thinking the party was great.
- 4 My brother is liking summer and I'm liking winter.
- 5 Get into the pool with me! The water is feeling great.

**5 Use the prompts to write questions beginning with *Do you ...?* or *Are you...?***

own / a bike?

think / English is easy?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

learn to / play an instrument?

plan to / do something interesting this weekend?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

like / cabbage?

love / watching TV?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

do / an art project at the moment?

need / study for an exam?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_