

Action Verb, Stative Verb or Both?

Activity Type

Vocabulary, Grammar and Writing Exercises: categorising, binary choice, error correction, gap-fill, writing an email

Focus

Action verbs and stative verbs

Aim

To learn and practice the difference between action verbs and stative verbs.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this action vs. stative verbs worksheet, students learn and practice the difference between action verbs and stative verbs.

Procedure

Give a copy of the two-page worksheet to each student.

First, students reading a text describing the difference between action verbs and stative verbs. Students then categorize a list of verbs and mark them as either action verbs (A), stative verbs (S), or both (B).

Exercise A - Answer key

S: 4, 7, 12, 13, 14, 16

A: 2, 6, 8, 10, 11, 15

B: 1, 3, 5, 9

Next, students underline the correct action or stative verb forms in a set of sentences.

Exercise B - Answer key

1. is being

2. are having

3. don't think

4. see, am seeing

5. don't understand

6. has

Students then move on to cross out mistakes in sentences and write the corrections on lines. If the sentence is right, students put the word 'correct' beside it.

Exercise C - Answer key

1. own

2. know

3. don't own

4. want

5. correct

6. really like

7. don't know

8. correct

After that, students complete an email with the correct form of the action or stative verbs in brackets.

Exercise D - Answer key

1. want

2. understand

3. think

4. am thinking

5. like

6. am reading

7. don't think

8. have

9. work

10. am being

11. hold

12. want

13. know

14. am seeing

Finally, students write a reply to the email using at least five action verbs and five stative verbs in their response.

When the students have finished, review their emails as a class.

Action Verb, Stative Verb or Both?

Action verbs describe physical actions. They can be used in both simple and continuous forms.

Stative verbs describe the state or quality of something. They are not actions. They are mostly used in the simple form.

Some verbs can be both action and stative verbs, depending on the context they are used in.

A. Categorize the verbs as action verbs (A), stative verbs (S), or both (B).

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. think | 5. be | 9. have | 13. like |
| 2. talk | 6. walk | 10. read | 14. know |
| 3. see | 7. want | 11. go | 15. watch |
| 4. understand | 8. sleep | 12. own | 16. hate |

B. Read the sentences and underline the correct verb forms.

- Ryan *is* / *is being* very rude. Someone should tell him to be quiet.
- We *have* / *are having* dinner at an Italian restaurant with some friends tonight.
- I *don't think* / *am not thinking* it's a good idea to drive during a snow storm.
- I can't *see* / *seeing* very well, so I *see* / *am seeing* an eye doctor next week.
- I'm on the phone with my mum, but I *don't understand* / *am not understanding* what she's saying.
- Sean *has* / *is having* a lot of work to do today.



C. Cross out the mistakes in the sentences below and write the corrections on the lines. If the sentence is right, put the word 'correct' beside it.

- I just bought a new car, so now I'm owning three!
- Anna is seeing a therapist. I'm knowing that this is good for her.
- I'm not owning a bicycle, so I walk a lot.
- I've just seen a fast food commercial on TV, so now I'm wanting a hamburger.
- Linda usually sleeps at home, but tonight she's sleeping at her friend's house.
- I'm really liking the outfits in this magazine. I'm thinking of buying something similar.
- The directions that the hotel gave me are confusing, so I'm walking around the city and I'm not knowing where to go!
- I'm watching a movie with my sister, but I'm not having fun because she's talking a lot and being very annoying!