State Verbs

State or stative verbs are verbs which do not usually have continuous tenses because they describe a state rather than an action. These include:

- **Verbs which express likes and dislikes**: like, love, hate, dislike, enjoy, prefer, fancy, can't stand, not mind, etc.
  e.g. Cathy **likes** romantic films.
- **Verbs of perception**: believe, know, notice, remember, forget, wish, understand, realise, wonder, think, (dis)agree, doubt, guess, hope, suppose, etc.
  e.g. I **don't believe** a word he's saying.
- **Verbs of the senses**: see, hear, taste, look, smell, sound, touch, feel, seem. We often use can or could with these verbs when we refer to what we see, hear, etc at the moment of speaking.
  e.g. The soup **tastes** delicious.
  Dad is in the attic. I **can hear** him.
- **Some other verbs**: be, have (= possess), want, need, include, belong (to), weigh, cost, owe, fit, mean, own, measure, matter, need, contain, lack, appear, deserve, etc.
  e.g. This book **is** mine. It **belongs** to me.

Some state verbs have continuous tenses, but there is A DIFFERENCE IN MEANING. These are some examples:

- I **think** she's Italian. (= **believe**)
  I'm **thinking** about my holiday. (= **consider**)
- The soup **tastes** awful. (= **have an awful flavour**)
  She's **tasting** the soup. (= **test the flavour of**)
- I can **see** a plane in the sky. (= **perceive**)
  I'm **seeing** Jill tonight. (= **meet someone**)
- Susan **looks** tired. (= **appear**)
  Susan **is looking** at the photos. (= **study**)
- The room **smells** of perfume. (= **have the smell**)
  The cat **is smelling** its food. (= **sniff**)
- The towel **feels** soft. (= **have a soft texture**)
  Jill **is feeling** her son's forehead. (= **touch**)
- He **is** selfish. (**character – permanent state**)
  He **is being** selfish. (**behaviour - temporary situation**)
- He **has** a sports car. (= **possess**)
  He's **having** lunch. (= **eat – idiom**)

Put the verbs in brackets into the Present Simple or the Present Continuous.

1. A: __Do you know__ (**you / know**) that man over there?
   B: Actually, I do. He's Muriel's husband.
2. A: Are you doing anything tomorrow evening?
   B: Yes. I _____ (**see**) Jack at 9.
3. A: I _____ (**see**) you're feeling better.
   B: Yes, I am. Thank you.
4. A: What's that noise?
   B: Well, I'm afraid that the people next door _____ (**have**) a party.
5. A: Sam _____ (**have**) a new iPad.
   B: I know. I've already seen it.
6. A: This dress _____ (**not fit**) me anymore.
   B: What don't you buy a new one?
7. A: Your perfume _____ (**smell**) nice. What is it?
   B: It's a new perfume called *Sunshine*.
8. A: What is Jane doing?
   B: She _____ (**smell**) the roses in the garden.
9. A: What _____ (**you / look**) at?
   B: Some pics I took during my holidays. They aren't very good, though.
10. A: Hey, you _____ (**look**) really pretty today.
    B: Thank you. I've just had my hair cut.
11. A: I _____ (**think**) we are being followed.
    B: Don't be silly! It's just your imagination.
12. A: Is anything wrong?
    B: No. I _____ (**just / think**) about the party tonight.
13. A: This fabric _____ (**feel**) like silk.
    B: Indeed it is silk, and it is very expensive.
14. A: What are you doing?
    B: I _____ (**feel**) the radiator to see if it's getting warm.
15. A: She _____ (**be**) generous, isn't she?
    B: Yes, she has never been a mean person.
16. A: I'm sorry, but I _____ (**not understand**) what you mean.
    B: Shall I explain it again?
17. A: The children are making lots of noise today.
    B: I know, but they _____ (**have**) fun.
18. A: Tom _____ (**be**) very quiet, isn't he?
    B: Yes, I think he has some problems.
19. A: Would you fancy some cherries?
    B: Yes, please. I _____ (**love**) cherries. They're my favourite fruit.
20. A: This cake _____ (**taste**) awful.
    B: I think I forgot to put sugar in it!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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