

Some stative verbs (**see, smell, taste, feel, think, have**, etc.) have continuous forms but there is a difference in meaning.

State	Action
<i>I think she's rich.</i> (= I believe)	<i>I'm thinking about your offer.</i> (= I'm considering)
<i>The milk tastes awful.</i> (= has a flavour)	<i>He's tasting the sauce; it might need some salt.</i> (= he's trying its flavour)
<i>He has a pet dog.</i> (= he owns)	<i>He's having problems at work at the moment.</i> (= experiencing)
<i>This cloth feels like velvet.</i> (= has the texture)	<i>She's feeling her way in the dark.</i> (= she's finding her way)
<i>I see you're in trouble.</i> (= I understand)	<i>I'm seeing my lawyer tonight.</i> (= I'm visiting)
<i>The kitchen smells of burnt meat.</i> (= has the scent of)	<i>Why are you smelling the food?</i> (= inhaling the odour of)
<i>He comes from Spain.</i> (= he was born in)	<i>He's coming from Spain.</i> (= he's travelling from)
<i>I love holidays.</i> (in general)	<i>I'm loving this holiday.</i> (= I'm enjoying; specific)
<i>Your hair looks great.</i> (= it appears)	<i>She's looking at some old photographs.</i> (= she's examining)
<i>The baby weighs 5 kilos.</i> (= it is)	<i>I'm weighing myself on my new scales.</i> (= I'm finding out my weight)
<i>Ann is very tall.</i> (= has the quality)	<i>Ann is being very kind to me these days.</i> (= she's behaving)

9 Underline the correct item.

- I see / am seeing that the situation is out of control.
- The sausages are tasting / taste delicious.
- Do you enjoy / Are you enjoying the party?
- You haven't said a word all morning. What are you thinking / do you think about?
- He has / is having a Siamese cat.
- These flowers are smelling / smell nice.
- I don't know / am not knowing where she keeps the keys.
- These silk sheets feel / are feeling lovely and smooth.
- Why do you smell / are you smelling the milk?
Do you think it has gone off?
- Anna is Italian. She is coming / comes from Italy.
- That dress looks / is looking nice on you.
- If you don't look / aren't looking at that comic book, I'd like to see it.
- The doctor weighs / is weighing the baby.
- Mary is / is being very naughty these days.

10 Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or the present continuous.

- A: I *am thinking* (think) about going to see *Green Day* in concert next month.
B: Great! I (think) they're the best. I'll come with you.
- A: Why (you/weigh) yourself?
B: I want to see if I (weigh) enough for my height.
- A: Your baby brother (be) adorable!
B: Yes, but today he (be) really naughty. He keeps drawing on the wall.
- A: I see you (have) a new mobile phone.
B: Yes, but I (have) problems with it at the moment.
- A: Why (you/taste) the soup? It's not ready yet.
B: To see if it (taste) sweet enough for the children.
- A: Do you know where Mike (come) from?
B: He's from Glasgow. Actually, he's there at the moment but he (come) back tomorrow.
- A: I (see) Charlotte has toothache.
B: Yes. She's in a lot of pain. She (see) her dentist this afternoon, though.

22 Put the verbs in brackets into the *present simple* or the *present continuous*.

- 1 A: I see (see) you still have a toothache.
B: Yes, I do. Actually, I
..... (see) my dentist later.
- 2 A: I
(think) of visiting Jim this afternoon.
B: Don't bother. I
..... (think) he's on a business trip.
- 3 A: Why
(Greg/be) so rude today?
B: I have no idea. He
..... (be) usually very polite.
- 4 A: Why (you/taste) the sauce? Does it need more pepper?
B: No. It
..... (taste) great the way it is.
- 5 A: Why
..... (you/smell) the milk?
B: Because it
(smell) off. We should throw it away.
- 6 A: I see you
..... (have) a new mobile phone.
B: Yes, but I (have) trouble understanding how it works.

23 Use the verbs to complete the sentences. Use the *present simple* or the *present continuous*.

fit	look	have	smell	think
appear	prefer	not/know	not/like	not/belong

- 1 Aya prefers classical music to jazz and pop.
- 2 He
new cabinets in the kitchen.
- 3 She
so relieved now that the test is over.
- 4 Tom
Indian food. It's too hot and spicy for him.
- 5 The new rock band
..... on stage tonight.
- 6 This isn't Ahmed's coat. It
..... to him.
- 7 The food nice.
- 8 The funfair rides are exciting. We
..... a great time!
- 9 I
where Jane is at the moment.
- 10 The Browns
..... of going to the theatre tonight.

24 Underline the correct item.

- 1 The children are having / have so much fun at the circus!
- 2 Fiona is looking / looks at some photos.
- 3 This jacket is fitting / fits you perfectly.
You should buy it.
- 4 Ron is wanting / wants to become a pilot.
- 5 I am not understanding / don't understand the meaning of that word.
- 6 He is loving / loves playing football.
- 7 I am thinking / think of buying a new CD.