

Stative Verbs

Some verbs rarely appear in the continuous tenses. These verbs express a permanent state and they are: **appear** (= seem), **be**, **believe**, **belong**, **cost**, **feel**, **forget**, **hate**, **have** (= possess), **know**, **like**, **love**, **mean**, **need**, **prefer**, **realise**, **remember**, **see**, **seem**, **smell**, **sound**, **suppose**, **taste**, **think**, **understand**, **want**, etc.

I understand it now. NOT I ~~am understanding~~ it now.

Some of these verbs can be used in continuous tenses but with a difference in meaning.

Present Simple

I **think** he's Italian.

(= believe)

Katie **looks** happy.

(= appears to be)

You can **see** the sea from my room.

(= it is visible)

Derek **has** a new car.

(= possesses)

This pie **tastes** really good.

(= it has a really good flavour)

This new dress **fits** her perfectly.

(= it is her size)

He **is** so polite.

(= that's his character)

She **appears** to be tired.

(= seems)

Present Continuous

Tom **is thinking** of moving house.

(= is considering)

They **are looking** at the paintings.

(= are taking a look at)

Sam **is seeing** his friends tonight.

(= is meeting)

We **are having** dinner at 8 o'clock.

(= are eating)

Paul **is tasting** the soup to see if it needs salt.

(= is trying)

He **is fitting** a new lock on the door.

(= is attaching)

He **is being** so rude today!

(= he is behaving like that only today)

She **is appearing** in a new TV show.

(= is taking part)

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

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

24 Underline the correct item.

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

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.