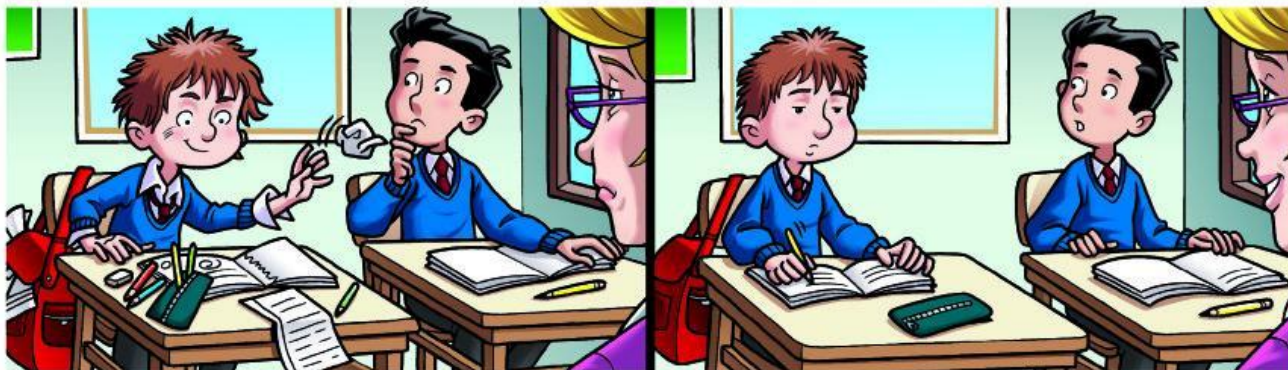




Normally, he isn't well behaved.

But today he's being very well behaved.

Presentation

There are two types of main verbs: *dynamic* and *stative*.

Dynamic verbs

You use dynamic verbs to talk about actions or events. You can use them to talk about facts/routines and actions that are in progress:

*I **talk** to my students individually once a term.* (= routine)

*Sorry, I'm **talking** to a student right now. Can we talk later?* (= action in progress)

Stative verbs

You use **stative verbs** to talk about states. These include talking about existence (*be, exist*), beliefs and opinions (*know, think, understand*) and possession (*have got, belong*):

I'm from England. (= existence)

*I **know** what you mean.* (= belief)

*I've **got** one brother and two sisters.* (= possession)

Some stative verbs are only used in the present simple and *not* in the present continuous:

*Ask me. I **know** the answer!* (don't say *Ask me. I'm ~~knowing~~ the answer!*)

*Speak more slowly. I **don't understand** English very well.* (don't say *Speak more slowly. I'm ~~not understanding~~ English very well.*)

*You **seem** distracted today.* (don't say *You're ~~seeming~~ distracted today.*)

*This house **belongs** to my grandmother.* (don't say *This house ~~is belonging~~ to my grandmother.*)

*I **don't believe** you!* (don't say *I'm ~~not believing~~ you!*)

*I'm sorry but I **don't agree** with you.* (don't say *I'm sorry but I'm ~~not agreeing~~ with you.*)

You can use some stative verbs in both the present simple and the present continuous:

- in the present simple the verb describes a general state or situation:

*Normally, he **isn't** well behaved.* (= generally true)

*What **do you think** about the situation?* (= general opinion)

- in the present continuous the verb describes a temporary state or new situation:

*He's **being** very well behaved today.* (= temporary situation)

*I'm not sure. I'm **thinking** about it.* (= in progress)

Changes in meaning

The meaning of some verbs can change because they can be both stative and dynamic, e.g. *have*:

Stative: *I **have** a shower.* (= I own a shower.)

Dynamic: *I'm **having** a shower.* (= I'm taking a shower at the moment.) *I have a shower every morning.* (= I take a shower every morning.)

Other verbs that can change their meaning include: *come, love, appear, see* and *weigh*.

TIP The rules for using dynamic and stative verbs with the present simple or present continuous are also true for other tenses in the simple or continuous forms.

Exercises

1 Complete the sentences with A or B.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 I see my colleagues <u>B</u> | A at the moment. |
| 2 I'm seeing my colleagues <u>A</u> | B twice a week. |
| 3 I'm weighing _____ | A the package. |
| 4 I weigh _____ | B too much! |
| 5 Jill and John come from _____ | A Canada via the USA. |
| 6 Jill and John are coming from _____ | B Canada – Ottawa to be exact. |
| 7 I think _____ | A about it. |
| 8 One moment. I'm thinking _____ | B we should go. |
| 9 Mandy is being clever _____ | A by saving all the money from her new job. |
| 10 Mandy is clever _____ | B and always gets good grades. |

2 Read this conversation. Find five more mistakes in the tourist's English. Then listen and check.

- Tourist: Hello. I'm trying to find Trafalgar Square but I'm ^{don't know} ~~not knowing~~ the way. Can you help me?
- Local person: Sure. It's easy from here. Go straight on and turn left at the large bookshop on the corner.
- Tourist: Sorry, I'm not understanding you. I'm not speaking English very well. Are you meaning straight up this road?
- Local person: That's right.
- Tourist: Thanks very much. Sorry for my English.
- Local person: No, it's very good.
- Tourist: Thank you, but I'm not believing you. I'm being in England for a month, so I hope it gets better.
- Local person: I'm sure it will.

3 Choose the correct form of the verbs.

- 1 I believe / 'm believing you might be right about this answer.
- 2 Give it back. It *belongs* / 's belonging to me.
- 3 I *love* / 'm loving my new school. It's much better than my old one.
- 4 I'm sorry but I *don't agree* / 'm not agreeing with you. I think you're wrong.
- 5 The Queen *owns* / is owning most of the land around here.
- 6 I *see* / 'm seeing what you mean.
- 7 Matthew *sees* / is seeing someone about a new job. I hope he gets it.
- 8 A: Why are your neighbours being so difficult about your plans to add a new floor to your house?
B: I *have* / 'm having no idea. Jealousy, probably.

4 Write sentences that are true for you using both forms of the verbs.

- 1 I love _____ . I'm loving _____ .
- 2 I have _____ . I'm having _____ .
- 3 I think _____ . I'm thinking _____ .