

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.

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Present Simple – Present Continuous

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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.

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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.



What are you doing?

Imagine you are at home. In teams, students ask you questions to find out where you are and what you are doing.

• kitchen • bathroom • bedroom • living room

Team A S1: Are you in the living room?

Leader: Yes, I am.

Team A S2: Are you watching TV?

Leader: No, I'm not, etc.



Speaking Activity

(Talking about actions happening now)

Look at the picture. Ask and answer questions as in the examples:

- look / map
- take / pictures
- look at / postcards
- drink / coffee
- feed / birds
- eat / sandwich
- read / book



A: What's Mr Jones doing?

B: He's looking at a map.

A: Is Andy reading a book?

B: No, he isn't. He's taking pictures, etc.

Writing Activity

Imagine you are on holiday. Complete the email below telling your English pen friend about your holiday.

Greetings from ! We're staying at
 The weather is There isn't a cloud in the sky.
 Right now, I My parents
 and my
 We late every day and

 In the evening, we or
 Tonight we
 We love it here. There is so much to see and do. See you in
 Yours,
