

## Stative Verbs

Verbs describing a permanent state (stative verbs) do not normally have continuous forms. These are:

(1) **verbs of the senses** : see, hear, smell, feel, taste etc (We often use **can** or **could** with these verbs.

eg. **Can** you see that tall boy over there? The verbs look, watch and listen express deliberate actions and can be used in continuous forms. eg. Be quiet please! I'm **listening** to the news. But: I **can't hear** you. **Can** you speak louder, please? The verbs feel and hurt can be used in either continuous or simple forms, though. eg. A: **How are you feeling** today? or **How do you feel** today?

B: **My leg is hurting**. or **My leg hurts**.

(2) **verbs of opinion** : agree, believe, consider etc (3) **verbs of emotions** : feel, forgive, hate, like, love etc

(4) **other verbs** : appear (=seem), be, belong, fit (= be the right shape and size for sth), have (=possess), know, look (= appear), need, prefer, require, want, weigh, wish etc

eg. **He knows** where Peter is. (**not is knowing**)

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

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

## 6 Underline the correct item.

1. I see / am seeing that the situation is out of control.
2. The sausages are tasting/taste delicious.
3. Do you enjoy/Are you enjoying this party?
4. You haven't said a word all morning. What are you thinking/do you think about?
5. He has/is having a Siamese cat.
6. These flowers are smelling/smell nice.
7. I don't know/am not knowing where she keeps the keys.
8. Why are you feeling/do you feel your pockets? Have you lost anything?
9. Why do you smell/are you smelling the milk? Do you think it has gone off?
10. Anna is Italian. She is coming/comes from Italy.
11. That dress looks/is looking nice on you.
12. Paul listens/is listening to a new record in his room.
13. If you don't look/aren't looking at that comic book, I'd like to see it.
14. Joan weighs/is weighing 50 kilos.
15. Mary is/is being very naughty these days.

## 7 Fill in with Present Simple or Continuous.

Sue : What 1) ..... are you doing ..... (you/do) now?

Mark : I 2) ..... (look) through these old film magazines. Look, here's an old picture of Jack Nicholson.

Sue : Oh, I 3) ..... (think) he 4) ..... (look) awful! And his suit 5) ..... (not/fit) him properly.

Mark : Yes, I 6) ..... (agree). And he 7) ..... (appear) to be really angry. I wonder what he 8) ..... (think) about.

Sue : He 9) ..... (be) in that new film that's on at the Odeon now, isn't he?

Mark : Yes, I saw it last night. He 10) ..... (look) very different now. He 11) ..... (weigh) a lot more.

Sue : I 12) ..... (hope) it's a good film. I 13) ..... (see) it tonight. Stuart 14) ..... (take) me. Actually, he 15) ..... (be) very nice to me these days.

Mark : He probably 16) ..... (want) to borrow some money.

Sue : I 17) ..... (see). That explains it.

