

# Non-continuous Verbs

- are conditions or situations that exist
- do not involve actions
- can't be progressive



categories	verbs	examples
MENTAL ACTIVITY AND ATTITUDES	know, think, understand, recognize, remember, want, need, appreciate, feel (=think), appear	He <b>understands</b> the problem ( <b>correct</b> ) He <b>is understanding</b> the problem ( <b>wrong!</b> )
FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS	love, like, hate, astonish, surprise, impress, please, amaze, adore, detest, enjoy, forgive, loathe	I <b>hate</b> olives ( <b>correct</b> ) I'm <b>hating</b> olives ( <b>wrong!</b> )
SENSES	hear, see, sound, taste, feel, smell	Your idea <b>sounds</b> nice ( <b>correct</b> ) Your idea <b>is sounding</b> nice ( <b>wrong!</b> )
OPINION	agree, believe, expect( = think), see(=understand), suppose, mean, prefer, seem,	I <b>prefer</b> tea to coffee ( <b>correct</b> ) I'm <b>preferring</b> tea to coffee ( <b>wrong!</b> )
POSSESSION	have(= possess), belong, possess, own	He <b>has</b> a sister ( <b>correct</b> ) He <b>is having</b> a sister ( <b>wrong!</b> )
MEASURES	measure, reach, cost, weigh, contain	it <b>costs</b> 20\$ ( <b>correct</b> ) It <b>is costing</b> 20\$ ( <b>wrong!</b> )

## Some stative verbs have progressive forms but there is a difference in meaning

state	action
He <b>thinks</b> he's really clever (=he believes)	I'm <b>thinking</b> about his offer (I'm considering)
What does it <b>taste</b> like? (What is its flavour)	He <b>is tasting</b> the food to see if it's good (he is tasting the flavour)
He <b>has</b> two houses (he owns, possesses)	He's <b>having</b> lunch (he is eating)
The silk shirt <b>feels</b> soft (it has a soft texture)	Ann <b>is feeling</b> the cat's fur (she is touching it)
Do you <b>see</b> what I mean? (do you understand)	I'm <b>seeing</b> Paula tonight (I'm meeting her)
Your perfume <b>smells</b> of apples (it has the smell)	She <b>is smelling</b> the roses (she is trying the smell of)
I <b>love/enjoy</b> good films (I like in general)	I'm <b>loving/enjoying</b> (I like specifically)
It <b>looks</b> as if it's going to rain (it appears)	He <b>is looking</b> at the painting (he is viewing it)
He <b>appears</b> to be working (he seems to be)	The opera singer <b>is appearing</b> on stage tonight (he will make an appearance)
The box is heavy. It <b>weighs a lot</b> (its weight is)	He <b>is weighing the potatoes</b> on the scales (he is finding out the weight of)
Bobby <b>is</b> naughty (his character is bad)	Suzy <b>is being</b> very naughty now (she is misbehaving)
These shoes <b>fit</b> me perfectly (they are the right size)	We <b>are fitting</b> a new carpet in the hall (laying)

**Task 1. Choose the correct form**



- a. I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a great time.
- b. She \_\_\_\_\_ (have) plenty of money just now.
- c. He \_\_\_\_\_ (appear) at the Fortune Theatre next week.
- d. She \_\_\_\_\_ (appear) to have a problem.
- c. Why you \_\_\_\_\_ (look) at me like that?
- f. It \_\_\_\_\_ (look) as if its going to rain.
- g. I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) what they are trying to say.
- h. I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) the manager this afternoon.
- i. I \_\_\_\_\_ (think) you are right.
- j. What \_\_\_\_\_ (you think) about?
- k. I \_\_\_\_\_ (feel )very tired today.
- l. I \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) she is making a mistake.

**Task 2. Put the words into the correct form, present continuous or present simple.**

- 1. Are you hungry? \_\_\_\_\_ something to eat? (want)
- 2. Jill is interested in politics but she \_\_\_\_\_ to a political party. (not/belong)
- 3. Don't put the dictionary away! I \_\_\_\_\_ it. (use)
- 4. Don't put the dictionary away! I \_\_\_\_\_ it. (need)
- 5. Who is that man? What \_\_\_\_\_ (he/want)
- 6. Who is that man? Why \_\_\_\_\_ at us? (he/look)
- 7. George says he's 80 years old but nobody \_\_\_\_\_ him. (believe)
- 8. She told me her name but I \_\_\_\_\_ it now. (not /remember)
- 9. I \_\_\_\_\_ of selling my car (think). Would you be interested in buying it?
- 10. I \_\_\_\_\_ you should sell your car (think) You \_\_\_\_\_ it very often. (not/use)
- 11. I used to drink a lot of coffee but these days I \_\_\_\_\_ tea. (prefer)
- 12. Air \_\_\_\_\_ mainly of nitrogen and oxygen. (consist)