

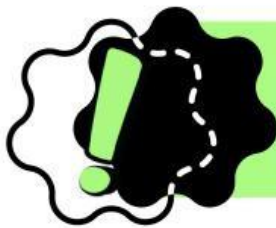
★ ALL STARS ★

ACTION AND NON-ACTION VERBS



There are two types of verbs in English. With action verbs, we notice a change in time and space while the action is happening. We can use them with present simple or present continuous.

Verb	Type	Present Simple
eat	Action	I eat dinner at 8.
run	Action	She runs every morning.
like	Non-action	I like chocolate.
believe	Non-action	They believe in ghosts.
have (possess)	Non-action	He has a car.
have (experience)	Action	We have lunch. We have fun (when...)

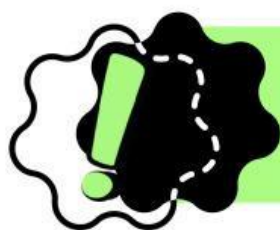


The second type of verb in English is Non-Action verbs which are impossible to notice in time and space. They are mainly mental and feeling related verbs. They CAN NEVER be used with the continuous tense. However, there is an "-ING" implied in the structure:

- admit: I admit *eating all the ice-cream.*
- like: I like *having fun with my friends.*
- hate: I hate *buying clothes with my mom.*
- start: She starts *learning piano tomorrow.*
- avoid: She avoids *taking the subway at night.*
- finish: They finish *doing the exam at 9 a.m.*
- enjoy: He enjoys *playing football on Sundays.*
- dislike: They dislike *listening to heavy metal.*
- begin: We begin *watching this new series.*

MAIN VERBS
(non-action verbs)
+
-ING (verb object)

Verb	Type	Present Continuous
eat	Action	I'm eating dinner now.
run	Action	She's running in the park now.
like	Non-action	✗ I'm liking chocolate. ✓ I like chocolate.
believe	Non-action	✗ They are believing... ✓ They believe (in)
have (possess)	Non-action	✗ He is having a car. ✓ He has a car.
have (experience)	Action	✓ We're having fun now.



There are some NON-ACTION verbs that can be considered exceptions.

What do you think?

Asking for someone's opinion

What are you thinking?

Expressing curiosity about someone's thoughts.

What do you feel?

Used about physical feeling like a doctor waiting for a response.

~~*What are you feeling?*~~

Not so common. Sounds unnatural.

How are you feeling?

Very common. Someone is asking about your current mood.

I don't understand.

Very common for expressing confusion

~~*I am not understanding.*~~

Not common. Sounds unnatural.

I think / believe...

Very common for giving opinions.

~~*I am thinking / believing*~~

Not common. Sound unnatural.

I start... + ing

I finish... + ing

I begin... +ing

I avoid... + ing

Very common for expressing these actions.

~~*I am starting...*~~

~~*I am finishing...*~~

~~*I am beginning...*~~

~~*I am avoiding...*~~

Not common. Exclusive for new habits or actions in a process of change

PRACTICE: Select if these sentences are correct or incorrect:

- *She is liking this movie.*
- *We are having pizza now.*
- *I know the answer.*
- *They are believing you.*
- *He has two cats.*
- *I'm thinking about next week exam.*