

Non-Action (Stative) Verbs

Some verbs **do not describe actions**. These verbs are called non-action verbs. They are also called stative verbs. **Do not use non-action verbs in the present-progressive tense, even when something is happening right now.**

Complete the examples below using SIMPLE PRESENT.

1. Some non-action verbs express <u>emotions</u> .							
admire	adore	appreciate		care	detest	dislike	doubt
envy	fear	hate	hope	like	love	mind	need
Example:		prefer		want			
✓ Carol <u>loves</u> (love) her grandmother.				✓ Doug _____ (like) soccer.			
✗ Carol <u>is loving</u> her grandmother.				✗ Doug <u>is liking</u> soccer.			
✓ Stuart _____ (hate) mushrooms.				✓ Taylor _____ (need) eggs for the recipe.			
✗ Stuart <u>is hating</u> mushroom.				✗ Taylor <u>is needing</u> eggs for the recipe.			
2. Some non-action verbs describe <u>senses</u> .							
feel	hear	notice	observe	perceive	see	smell	taste
✓ The music _____ (sound) romantic.				✓ Yoko _____ (feel) upset.			
✗ The music <u>is sounding</u> romantic.				✗ Yoko <u>is feeling</u> upset.			
✓ The cookies _____ (taste) sweet.				✓ The fox _____ (notice) the person.			
✗ The cookies <u>are tasting</u> sweet.				✗ The fox <u>is noticing</u> the person.			
3. Some non-action verbs describe <u>mental states</u> .							
agree	assume	believe	consider	disagree	estimate	expect	find
guess	hesitate	hope	imagine	know	mean	presume	realize
recognize		remember		understand		wonder	
✓ Carol _____ (know) you.				✓ They _____ (recognize) her voice.			
✗ Carol <u>is knowing</u> you.				✗ They <u>are recognizing</u> her voice.			
✓ She _____ (understand) you.				✓ He _____ (find) it hard to believe.			
✗ She <u>is understanding</u> you.				✗ He <u>is finding</u> it hard to believe.			
4. Some non-action verbs show <u>possession</u> .							
belong	contain	have		include	involve	own	possess
✓ I _____ (have) a red sports car.				✓ The book _____ (belong) to him.			
✗ I <u>am having</u> a red sports car.				✗ The book <u>is belonging</u> to him.			
✓ The family _____ (own) a dog.				✓ The price _____ (include) tax.			
✗ The family <u>is owning</u> a dog.				✗ The price <u>is including</u> tax.			
5. Note that <u>be</u> is also a non-action verb.							
✓ I _____ (be) tired now.				✓ He _____ (be) a student.			
✗ I <u>am being</u> tired now.				✗ He <u>is being</u> a student.			

6. Some non-actions verbs can also be used as action verbs. In these cases, the meanings of the verbs change, and they take the role of action verbs.

✓ I _____ (have) a new car.	✓ I'm tasting the turkey.
✓ I'm having trouble with it.	✓ It _____ (taste) delicious.
✓ I'm thinking about English grammar.	
✓ I _____ (think) it's interesting.	

Select the correct verb or verb phrase in each sentence.

Taylor: There (**are / are being**) so many people at this movie!

Marcy: (**Are you recognizing / Do you recognize**) anyone?

Taylor: No, I (**am not thinking / don't think**) that I (**know / am knowing**) anyone.

Marcy: Hey, I (**think / 'm thinking**) I (**am seeing / see**) our teacher.

Taylor: Oh yes! I (**am seeing / see**) her too!

Marcy: What (**'s / 's being**) that noise?

Taylor: I (**am not hearing / don't hear**) anything.

Marcy: You (**aren't listening / don't listen**) closely.

Taylor: Oh, that noise. It (**sounds / is sounding**) like the movie (**starts / is starting**).

Marcy: No, that's not what I (**am meaning / mean**). There's another noise.

Taylor: It (**is sounding / sounds**) like someone (**is singing / sings**).

Marcy: You're right. I (**am thinking / think**) there (**is / is being**) a concert in the other theatre.

Taylor: I (**am wondering / wonder**) who (**is performing / performs**).

Marcy: I (**don't know / am not knowing**). Let's go see.

Drag the words below to write sentences in the simple present or present continuous.

1. getting / Aren't / hungry? / you

2. cost? / How much / does / it

3. wearing / jackets? / Why / they / aren't

4. you / Are / picking up / the groceries?

5. a car? / have / you / Do
