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 **emotions**.

admire adore appreciate care detest dislike doubt envy fear hate hope like love mind need prefer want

Example:

✔ Carol **loves** (love) her grandmother.
✖ *Carol is loving her grandmother.*

✔ Doug _____ (like) soccer.
✖ *Doug is liking soccer.*

✔ Stuart _____ (hate) mushrooms.
✖ *Stuart is hating mushroom.*

✔ Taylor _____ (need) eggs for the recipe.
✖ *Taylor is needing eggs for the recipe.*

2. Some non-action verbs describe **senses**.

feel hear notice observe perceive see smell taste

✔ The music _____ (sound) romantic.
✖ *The music is sounding romantic.*

✔ Yoko _____ (feel) upset.
✖ *Yoko is feeling upset.*

✔ The cookies _____ (taste) sweet.
✖ *The cookies are tasting sweet.*

✔ The fox _____ (notice) the person.
✖ *The fox is noticing the person.*

3. Some non-action verbs describe **mental states**

agree assume believe consider disagree estimate expect find guess hesitate hope imagine know mean presume realize recognize remember understand wonder

✔ Carol _____ (know) you.
✖ *Carol is knowing you.*

✔ They _____ (recognize) her voice.
✖ *They are recognizing her voice.*

✔ She _____ (understand) you.
✖ *She is understanding you.*

✔ He _____ (find) it hard to believe.
✖ *He is finding it hard to believe.*

4. Some non-action verbs show **possession**.

belong contain have include involve own possess

✔ I _____ (have) a red sports car.
✖ *I am having a red sports car.*

✔ The book _____ (belong) to him.
✖ *The book is belonging to him.*

✔ The family _____ (own) a dog.
✖ *The family is owning a dog.*

✔ The price _____ (include) tax.
✖ *The price is including tax.*

5. Note that **be** is also a non-action verb.

✔ I _____ (be) tired now.
✖ *I am being tired now.*

✔ He _____ (be) a student.
✖ *He is being 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 having** trouble with it.
✔ I'**m tasting** the turkey.
✔ 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

   _____ _____ _____ _____