

	STATE VERBS	EXAMPLES
verbs of feeling/ wanting	<i>like love dislike hate prefer need want wish</i> (BUT we often use <i>enjoy</i> in the continuous)	<i>Does she like her present? I need a little more time. (Are you enjoying that book?)</i>
verbs of thinking/ believing	<i>believe doubt forget know mean realise recognise remember think understand</i>	<i>I don't believe in luck. Do you know the answer? We think she's really nice.</i>
verbs of being/ appearing	<i>appear be seem</i>	<i>This door appears to be locked. Maria seems very helpful.</i>
verbs of possessing/ relating	<i>belong contain have (got) own possess</i>	<i>These drinks contain Vitamin C. Duncan has two Ferraris.</i>
sense verbs	<i>hear see smell taste</i>	<i>Listen! Do you hear music? This coffee tastes really good.</i>

State verbs and the continuous form

We can use some state verbs in the continuous form, with a different and more active meaning:

	STATE (PRESENT SIMPLE)	ACTION (PRESENT CONTINUOUS)
<i>have</i>	<i>I have two sisters. (= possess)</i>	<i>I'm having breakfast right now. (= eating)</i>
<i>think</i>	<i>What do you think of it? (= What's your opinion?)</i>	<i>What are you thinking about? (= considering at the moment)</i>
<i>appear</i>	<i>It appears that they're going to close the theatre. (= seems that/looks like)</i>	<i>The Gypsy Kings are appearing at the local theatre next week. (= performing)</i>
<i>taste</i>	<i>Your soup tastes wonderful! (= a quality of the soup)</i>	<i>I'm tasting the soup to check if it needs any more salt. (= I'm checking/testing it.)</i>
<i>see</i>	<i>Do you see the difference between the two pictures? (= can you notice it?)</i>	<i>Are you seeing your friends a lot at the moment? (= meeting regularly)</i>

- John (want) to leave his office, but he can't. He (belong) to a big company, and he (have) a lot of work to do today. He shouldn't be looking outside the window. He should (think) about his work.
- His responsibilities for today (include) writing a report. He (care) about his job. He (not/mind) writing a report, but he (wish) he was outside right now.
- John can see his boss. His boss (not/work) either. He (watch) a video on his computer. He (look) happy. He (laugh) a little. His boss often (watch) videos.

4.1 Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

1 Nicky is thinking of giving up her job.

OK

2 Are you believing in God?

3 I'm feeling hungry. Is there anything to eat?

4 This sauce is great. It's tasting really good.

5 I'm thinking this is your key. Am I right?

4.2 Use the words in brackets to make sentences. (You should also study Unit 3 before you do this exercise.)

1



(you / not / seem / very happy today)
You don't seem very happy today.

2



(what / you / do?)
Be quiet! (I / think)

3



(who / this umbrella / belong to?)
I have no idea.

4



(the dinner / smell / good)

5



Excuse me. (anybody / sit / there?)
No, it's free.

6



(these gloves / not / fit / me)
They're too small.

4.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or present simple.

1 Are you hungry? Do you want (you / want) something to eat?

2 Don't put the dictionary away. I (use) it.

3 Don't put the dictionary away. I (need) it.

4 Who is that man? What (he / want)?

5 Who is that man? Why (he / look) at us?

6 Alan says he's 80 years old, but nobody (believe) him.

7 She told me her name, but I (not / remember) it now.

8 I (think) of selling my car. Would you be interested in buying it?

9 I (think) you should sell your car. You (not / use) it very often.

10 Air (consist) mainly of nitrogen and oxygen.



Practically speaking | How to show interest

- 1 When you listen to someone, how can you show interest?
- 2 ▶ 1.2 Listen to a conversation between Veronique and Joel. Match sentences 1–3 to responses a–c.
 - 1 But at the moment, I'm doing a lot of work in the USA. ____
 - 2 It's a project for a pharmaceutical company. ____
 - 3 This one gives money to charities and non-profit organizations. ____
 - a **Is that right?** My company works with pharmaceutical companies, too.
 - b **Really?** How often do you travel there?
 - c **That sounds interesting!** It would be good to keep in contact.
- 3 ▶ 1.3 The expressions in **bold** show the speaker's interest. Listen to the intonation and repeat the expressions.
- 4 Which other technique does each speaker use in a–c in 2 to show more interest?
 - 1 Suggesting keeping in contact. ____
 - 2 Finding a connection. ____
 - 3 Asking a question. ____
- 5 Work with a partner. Write five sentences about your working life. Take turns to tell each other the information and respond by showing interest using an expression from 2 and a technique from 4.

*Example: A I'm developing a new product at the moment.
B That sounds interesting! What type of product is it?*