

Stative verbs vs. Active verbs

Some verbs are not usually used in continuous tenses. They are called *stative* because they describe states and not actions. To talk about the present, we use these verbs in the Present Simple.

E.g.

I know the truth about your sister! - RIGHT

I'm knowing what you're up to, Amy! - WRONG

1. Some verbs can be both stative verbs and action verbs, but with a different meaning, like you have just discovered in the previous competition.

1. I expect you're looking forward to the party. THINK/BELIEVE We're expecting visitors this weekend WAITING FOR 2. Jeremy has a fast car. OWNS Ken is having a terrible time in Germany. EXPERIENCING Jerry's having breakfast at the hotel. EATING 3. He looks like his grandfather. RESEMBLES I'm looking for my blue scarf. SEARCHING FOR 4. The soup tastes delicious. HAS A FLAVOR Why are you tasting the milk? (PERFORMING THE ACTION OF) TASTING THE FLAVOR	5. I think rock music is the best! BELIEVE/ HAVE THE OPINION We're thinking of doing a computer course. CONSIDERING 6. 'My Aunt Jennifer is my dad's sister!' 'Oh, I see.' UNDERSTAND I'm seeing the dentist tomorrow. MEETING 7. This perfume smells lovely. HAS A PARTICULAR SMELL Why is John smelling the cream? (PERFORMING THE ACTION OF) SMELLING 8. Kevin weighs 68 kilos. HAS A PARTICULAR WEIGHT The shop assistant is weighing the apples. (PERFORMING THE ACTION OF) MEASURING THE WEIGHT
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2. Based on the examples above, match the most common stative verbs, shown in column A, with the categories shown in column B. Can you think of other examples for each category?

A	B
1) Hate, like, love, need, prefer, want	a) Verbs of possession
2) Feel, hear, see, smell, sound, taste	b) Verbs which express a state of mind
3) Believe, doubt, forget, imagine, know, remember, seem, suppose, think	c) Other verbs
4) Belong to, have, own, possess	d) Verbs of emotion
5) Be, consist, contain, cost, include, mean	e) Verbs of senses