

Actions VS States

2 I think/I'm thinking etc.

Sometimes we can use a verb either for a state or for an action.

STATES (simple tenses)

I think you're right. (= believe)

We have three cars. (= own)

I come from Sweden. (= live in)

I see your problem. (= understand)

Do you see that house? (= have in sight)

This picture looks nice.

She appears very nervous. (= seems)

The bag weighed five kilos.

The coat fits. (= is the right size)

ACTIONS (simple or continuous)

I'm thinking about the problem.

We're having lunch. (= eating)

I'm coming from Sweden. (= travelling)

I usually come on the plane.

Mark is seeing his boss. (= meeting)

I see Daniel quite often.

I'm looking at this picture.

She appeared/was appearing in a film.

They weighed/were weighing my bag.

I'm fitting a lock to the window.

These examples with the verb be are about how people behave.

PERMANENT QUALITY

Claire is a very sociable person.

That man is an idiot.

TEMPORARY BEHAVIOUR

Andrew is being very sociable today.

You are being an idiot this morning.

(= You are behaving like an idiot.)

We use am/are/is being only to talk about behaviour, not about other things.

I'm better now, thanks. Are you ready? Is anyone interested?

I think/I'm thinking etc. (2)

Complete the conversation. Choose the correct form of the verb.

Emma: Hi, Matthew. What (►) do you look/are you looking at?

Matthew: Oh, hi. These are photos of me when I was a child.

Emma: Oh, look at this one. (1) I think/I'm thinking you look lovely, Matthew.

Matthew: (2) I have/I'm having some more photos here.

Emma: Look at this. Why such a big coat?

Matthew: It was my brother's. That's why (3) it didn't fit/it wasn't fitting properly.

Emma: Oh, (4) I see/I'm seeing. And (5) you have/you're having your tea here. And in this one (6) you think/you're thinking about something very serious.

Matthew: This is a photo of the village (7) I come/I'm coming from.

Emma: Oh, that's nice.

Matthew: And I caught this fish, look. (8) It weighed/It was weighing about half a kilo.

Emma: What a nice little boy! And what a sentimental old thing you are now!

The verb be (2)

Put in the correct form of *be*.

- Daniel is doing some of the work. He 's being very helpful at the moment.
- I'm tired. I want to go home.

- 1 The children very polite today. They don't usually behave so well.
- 2 I'm afraid Melanie can't come because she ill.
- 3 Of course you can understand it. You stupid, that's all.
- 4 We interested in doing a course here.
- 5 Vicky very lazy at the moment. She's done no work at all today.