

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.