

## Stative Verbs

like	know	belong
love	realise	fit
hate	suppose	contain
want	mean	consist
need	understand	seem
prefer	believe	depend
agree	remember	matter
mind	recognise	see
own	appear	look (=seem)
sound	taste	smell
hear	astonish	deny
disagree	please	impress
satisfy	promise	surprise
doubt	think (=have an opinion)	feel (=have an opinion)
wish	imagine	concern
dislike	be	have
deserve	involve	include
lack	measure (=have length etc)	possess
owe	weigh (=have weight)	

A verb which isn't stative is called a dynamic verb, and is usually an action.

**Some verbs can be both stative and dynamic:**

### Be

be is usually a stative verb, but when it is used in the continuous it means 'behaving' or 'acting'

- you are stupid = it's part of your personality
- you are being stupid = only now, not usually

### Think

- think (stative) = have an opinion  
I think that coffee is great
- think (dynamic) = consider, have in my head  
what are you thinking about? I'm thinking about my next holiday

### Have

- have (stative) = own  
I have a car
- have (dynamic) = part of an expression  
I'm having a party / a picnic / a bath / a good time / a break

### See

- see (stative) = see with your eyes / understand  
I see what you mean
- see (dynamic) = meet / have a relationship with  
I've been seeing my boyfriend for three years
- I'm seeing Robert tomorrow

### Taste

- taste (stative) = has a certain taste  
This soup tastes great
- taste (dynamic) = the action of tasting  
The coffee tastes really bitter
- taste (dynamic) = the action of tasting  
The chef is tasting the soup

('taste' is the same as other similar verbs such as 'smell')

### **Stative verbs worksheet - Exercises 1**

A.-Put the verb into the correct form. Use either the present simple or the present continuous.

1. Please don't make so much noise. I \_\_\_\_\_ (study).
2. How many languages \_\_\_\_\_ (Tom speak).
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/belong) to a political party.
4. Hurry! The bus \_\_\_\_\_ (come). I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/want) to miss it.
5. The River Nile \_\_\_\_\_ (flow) into the Mediterranean.
6. The river \_\_\_\_\_ (flow) very fast today — much faster than usual.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (it/ever/snow) in India?
8. We usually \_\_\_\_\_ (grow) vegetables in our garden, but this year we \_\_\_\_\_ (not/grow) any.

9. A: Can you drive?

B: No, but I \_\_\_\_\_ (learn). My father \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) me.

10. You can borrow my umbrella. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/need) it at the moment.
11. (at a party) I usually \_\_\_\_\_ (enjoy) parties but I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/enjoy) this one very much.
12. George says he's 80- years old but I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/believe) him.
13. Ron is in London at the moment. He \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) at the Hilton Hotel. He usually \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) at the Hilton Hotel when he's in London.
14. My parents \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in Bristol. They were born there and have never lived anywhere else. Where \_\_\_\_\_ (your/parents/live)?
15. She \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) with her sister at the moment, until she finds somewhere to live.
16. A: What \_\_\_\_\_ (your father/do)?  
B: He's a teacher, but he \_\_\_\_\_ (not/work) at the moment.
17. What time \_\_\_\_\_ (the banks/close) in Britain?
18. I don't understand the word 'aint'. What \_\_\_\_\_ (it/mean)?
19. He is still ill but he \_\_\_\_\_ (get/better) slowly.
20. The economic situation is already bad and it \_\_\_\_\_ (get/worse)..

### **b.-GRAMMAR: Stative Verbs Exercise**

Circle the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

- (a) Right now they (*think, are thinking*) about buying a new car.
- (b) Pete (*has been knowing, has known*) Jane for many years.
- (c) She told me that she (*had always loved, had always been loving*) the theatre.
- (d) It (*is depending, depends*) on what the weather (*is being, is*) like on the weekend.
- (e) Pierre (*has owned, has been owning*) that car for over ten years.
- (f) Mary (*saw, was seeing*) Freddie for the first time in a club in Greenwich Village.
- (g) Gerry (*was tasting, tasted*) the wine when suddenly the fire alarm went off in the restaurant.  
He spilled wine all over his shirt.
- (h) The roses (*smelled, were smelling*) lovely in your garden last summer.
- (i) Shirley (*is having, has*) a difficult time right now.
- (j) It (*looks, is looking*) as if it might rain.
- (k) I (*am thinking, think*) that I should look for a new job.
- (l) The thief looked into his rear-view mirror and (*was realizing, realized*) that he (*was being, was*) followed by a police car.

C. Put the verbs in brackets in their correct form.

1. He (think) \_\_\_\_\_ that we are studying now.
2. These flowers (smell) \_\_\_\_\_ terrific.
3. Henry (understand) \_\_\_\_\_ Italian well.
4. this milk (taste) \_\_\_\_\_ funny. I won't drink it.
5. Diana (want) \_\_\_\_\_ to come over now. Is that all right?
6. There's a spider in the corner. I (hate) \_\_\_\_\_ them.
7. I (hear) \_\_\_\_\_ you, but I can't understand what you are saying.
8. Please give me that book. It (belong) \_\_\_\_\_ to me.
9. Moshe (believe) \_\_\_\_\_ you, but I know that you are lying.
10. I (think) \_\_\_\_\_ that we will get a discount because Talia (know) \_\_\_\_\_ the manager.

D. Put the verbs in brackets in their correct form.

1. Although Tom is very ill, he (know) \_\_\_\_\_ what (happen) \_\_\_\_\_ around him.
2. Of course I (understand) \_\_\_\_\_ you, I (listen) \_\_\_\_\_, aren't I?
3. Why don't you comb your hair? It (look) \_\_\_\_\_ awful.
4. I (tell) \_\_\_\_\_ the truth. Why (you/not believe) \_\_\_\_\_ me?
5. I (enjoy) \_\_\_\_\_ myself a lot at the moment. I (like) \_\_\_\_\_ Eilat.
6. Why are you so angry? You (look) \_\_\_\_\_ awful when you (be) \_\_\_\_\_ angry.
7. Can we go somewhere else? I (hate) \_\_\_\_\_ it here.
8. I (wait) \_\_\_\_\_ for David. We (want) \_\_\_\_\_ to go swimming.
9. The girl you talked about (sit) \_\_\_\_\_ over there. She (seem) \_\_\_\_\_ nice.