

Stative Verbs / Non-Continuous Verbs

Definition: There are several groups of verbs in English that are not used in the continuous form, that is, in the Continuous tenses. Such verbs, as a rule, describe not so much an action as the state of an object. Such verbs are called state / stative or non-continuous verbs (static verbs). Verbs that have the Continuous form in grammar are called action or dynamic verbs.

Compare:

I see you.	Я тебя вижу.
I am seeing you off.	Я тебя провожаю.
I'm seeing my dentist tomorrow.	Завтра я встречаюсь со своим дантистом.
I was seeing the sights of Boston when I met Kevin.	Я рассматривала достопримечательности Бостона, когда встретила Кевина.

I. Verbs of Sense Perception (see, hear, smell, taste, feel, look, sound, touch, etc.):

Smell

The soup smells good.

I am smelling the soup.

Taste

The soup tastes good.

I am tasting the soup.

Feel

The baby's skin feels like silk.

I feel tired.

Mother is feeling the baby's forehead.

Look

It looks as if Molly has finished the essay.

Molly is looking out of the window.

Molly is looking through the newspaper.

II. Verbs of Feelings (like, dislike, care for, love, hate, enjoy, prefer, adore, admire, detest, respect, etc.):

Detest

I detest everything about him.

Respect

Do you respect John's opinion?

Admire

I admire Tom's honesty.

I'm admiring the moon.

Enjoy

I enjoy rock music.

I am enjoying the concert.

III. Verbs of Mental Perception, Mental Activity (know, believe, notice, realize, forget, remember, recognize, think, expect, understand, see, seem, mean, etc.):

Believe

Kevin doesn't believe in psychic.

See (understand)

Molly sees what Kevin means.

Think ('I am thinking' is a verb meaning you are having thoughts or thinking about something while 'I think' is used when you want to say something you are not sure of)

Dan thinks Kate is lying.

I'm thinking about our possible reaction.

IV. Verbs of Desire (wish, want, desire, covet, etc.):

Want

I want to see you.

Desire

He desires to return to Mexico.

Covet

She covets her sister's house.

V. Verbs of Abstract Relations (contain, resemble, appear, possess, include, belong, consist, deserve, involve, lack, depend, concern, need, fit, matter, cost, own, owe, have, require, keep, etc.):

My uncle Frank **owns** a huge hotel.

I **depend** on my family in everything.

This job **requires** profound qualification.

Note 1. You need to pay special attention to the following verbs, which, depending on the meaning, can act as both stative and action verbs.

I **have** two brothers

I am **having** breakfast at the moment.

Don't bother the child, he is **having** a nap.

The baby **weighs** 10 kilos.

I am **weighing** the baby.

Note 2. Verbs of influence do not have the Continuous form:

It **influences** the audience.

Her reply **astonishes** me.

She **impresses** me as a scholar.

Let him say what he **pleases**.

Our school usually **satisfies** our needs.

They **surprise** us.

Feelings:	Thoughts, opinions:	Senses:	Possession:	Measure, cost, Others:
LIKE	KNOW	FEEL	BELONG	COST
DISLIKE	THINK	HEAR	OWN	MEASURE
LOVE	UNDERSTAND	SEE	HAVE	WEIGH
HATE	BELIEVE	SMELL		OWE
PREFER	GUESS	SOUND		SEEM
WANT	MEAN	TASTE		BE
NEED	SUPPOSE	TOUCH		APPEAR
MIND	DOUBT	LOOK		CONSIST
CARE	REALIZE			
	REMEMBER			
	FORGET			
	AGREE			