

Stative Verbs

Some verbs are only (or mostly) used in simple tenses, and are not used in continuous tenses. An example of a simple tense is the present simple, or the past simple. An example of a continuous tense is the present continuous or past continuous. These verbs are called stative, or state verbs. A verb which isn't stative is called a dynamic verb, and is usually an action. Often stative verbs are about liking or disliking something, or about a mental state, not about an action.

agree	disagree	fit	own	suppose
appear	hear	hate	prefer	surprise
believe	imagine	like	promise	understand
belong	include	live	realize	want
concern	know	love	recognize	wish
consist	dislike	mean	remember	
contain	doubt	need	seem	
deserve	feel (opinion)	owe	sound	

Some verbs can be both stative and dynamic:

be	<p>be is usually a stative verb, but when it is used in the continuous it means 'behaving' or 'acting':</p> <p>You are stupid. = it's part of your personality You are being stupid. = only now, not usually</p>
have	<p>have (stative) = own I have a car</p> <p>have (dynamic) = part of an expression I'm having a party / a picnic / a bath / a good time / a break.</p>
see	<p>see (stative) = see with your eyes / understand I see what you mean. I see her now, she's just coming along the road.</p> <p>see (dynamic) = meet / have a relationship with I've been seeing my boyfriend for three years. I'm seeing Robert tomorrow.</p>
taste (also: smell, feel, look)	<p>taste (stative) = has a certain taste This soup tastes great.</p> <p>taste (dynamic) = the action of tasting The chef is tasting the soup.</p>
think	<p>think (stative) = have an opinion I think that coffee is great.</p> <p>think (dynamic) = consider, have in my head What are you thinking about? I'm thinking about my next holiday.</p>