

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
I see her now, she's just coming along the road
- 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
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.