

Stative verbs

Stative verbs (also known as "state verbs") are verbs that describe a state or condition rather than an action or event. They are not typically used in the continuous (progressive) tense.

Here is a list of some common stative verbs in English, grouped by their primary usage, along with example sentences:

Verbs of Thought/Opinion:

- **believe:** I believe him.
- **know:** She knows the answer.
- **understand:** I understand your concern.
- **think** (when referring to an opinion): I think this is a good idea.
- **realise:** They realised the mistake.
- **remember:** Do you remember the time we visited London?
- **forget:** I forgot her birthday.
- **imagine:** Can you imagine living in a castle?

Verbs of Emotion:

- **love:** I love chocolate.
- **hate:** He hates spiders.
- **like:** They like the new teacher.
- **prefer:** I prefer tea to coffee.
- **want:** Do you want some more cake?
- **wish:** She wishes for a better job.
- **need:** I need some help.
- **care:** They don't care about the rules.
- **mind:** Would you mind opening the window?

Verbs of Perception:

- **hear:** I can hear music.
- **see:** She sees a bird in the tree.
- **seem:** This seems difficult.
- **appear:** She appears happy.
- **sound:** That sounds like a great idea.
- **feel** (referring to emotions): I feel sad.

Verbs of Possession:

- **have:** They have a new car.
- **own:** I own a small flat in Brighton.
- **belong:** This book belongs to Sarah.
- **possess:** The museum possesses a valuable collection.

Other Stative Verbs:

- **consist:** The cake consists of sugar, flour, and eggs.
- **contain:** This bottle contains water.
- **deserve:** He deserves a reward.
- **involve:** The task involves a lot of effort.
- **mean:** What does this word mean?
- **measure:** The room measures 5 by 7 metres.
- **owe:** I owe him £20.
- **weigh:** The suitcase weighs 20 kg.

Remember, some verbs can be both stative and dynamic (action verbs) depending on the context. The easiest way to determine whether the condition of the verb is static or dynamic is to consider if the action is permanent or temporary. For example:

Be:

- **Stative:** Describing a state or characteristic.
Example: She is clever.
- **Dynamic:** Temporary behaviour or a situational state.
Example: She is being silly.

Think:

- **Stative:** Belief or opinion.
Example: I think that's a brilliant idea.
- **Dynamic:** The action of considering or pondering something.
Example: I am thinking about my next holiday.

Have:

- **Stative:** Possession or a characteristic.
Example: She has a lovely voice.
- **Dynamic:** Engaging in an action or activity.
Example: She is having a bath.

See:

- **Stative:** Perceiving with the eye or understanding.
Example: I see what you mean.
- **Dynamic:**
 - Engaging in the action of seeing, like watching.
Example: I am seeing a film tonight.
 - Dating someone.
Example: I've been seeing my boyfriend for two years.
 - Meeting someone.
Example: I'm seeing the doctor tomorrow.

Taste:

- **Stative:** Inherent quality of something.
Example: This soup tastes delicious.
- **Dynamic:** The action of tasting something.
Example: She is tasting the wine to check its quality.

Smell:

- **Stative:** Inherent quality/characteristic.
Example: The flower smells lovely.
- **Dynamic:** Action of sniffing or detecting an odour.
Example: She is smelling the flowers in the garden.

Feel:

- **Stative:** Emotional state or physical sensation.
Example: I feel cold.
- **Dynamic:** Act of touching or examining by touch.
Example: She is feeling the fabric to see if it's soft.

Look:

- **Stative:** Appearance or seeming in a certain way.
Example: She looks tired.
- **Dynamic:** Action of actively using one's eyes.
Example: She is looking at the painting.

Weigh:

- **Stative:** Inherent weight of something.
Example: The package weighs two kilogrammes.
- **Dynamic:** Act of determining weight.
Example: She is weighing the ingredients for the cake.

Measure:

- **Stative:** Definite size or quantity.
Example: The room measures 5 by 5 metres.
- **Dynamic:** Action of determining dimensions.
Example: He is measuring the floor space.