

Talk a Lot

Intermediate Book 1

Comprehensive List of State Verbs in English

State verbs form a small group of verbs in English **which don't usually have continuous forms**, but use only simple verb forms. They are sometimes called "stative verbs" or "non-progressive verbs". For example:

We say:	"Annie likes frozen peas."	not	"Annie is liking frozen peas."
We say:	"I saw a bird sitting on a branch."	not	"I was seeing a bird sitting on a branch."
We say:	"Sue is nearly forty years old."	not	"Sue is being nearly forty years old."

State verbs are different from **active verbs** (also called "dynamic verbs"), which describe deliberate physical actions, e.g. **run, eat, put**, etc. They fall into three main groups:

1. Things that I do in my head – with my mind:

These thoughts are already continuous – or permanent – without using a continuous tense

a) general thought processes:

believe
know
notice
realise
recognise
remember
understand
want
forget *
judge *
think *
wish *

b) negotiations with other people:

accept
agree
disagree
doubt
impress
mean
need
promise
refuse
suspect
mind (care about) *
suppose *
trust *

c) likes and dislikes:

dislike
fancy
hate
like
loathe
love
prefer

2. Things that I do involuntarily – that I can't help doing:

We use our senses all the time when we're awake – whether we want to or not! So these actions are already continuous, without using a continuous tense

a) senses:

hear
smell
feel *
see *
sense *
taste *

** These verbs can be both state and active, depending on the context in which they're being used, e.g.*

State meaning: "I have two garages." (*general state of ownership*) not: "I'm having two garages."

Active meaning: "We're having dinner at Emily's house." (*deliberate action*)

3. States which are either continuous or permanent:

These states are already continuous – or permanent – without using a continuous tense

a) general states of being:

deserve
last (duration)
matter
seem
sound
be *
keep (continue) *
fit (clothes) *
involve *
lie (position) *

b) possession:

belong
own
possess
have *
owe *

c) contents:

consist of
contain
include *

d) measurement:

measure *
weigh *