

02 Action and state verbs

Verbs that describe actions or events are known as "action" or "dynamic" verbs, whereas those that describe states are known as "state" or "stative" verbs.

 **New language** State verbs in continuous forms

 **Aa Vocabulary** Action and state verbs

 **New skill** Describing states

2.1 KEY LANGUAGE ACTION AND STATE VERBS

Action verbs can be used in simple and continuous forms.

State verbs are not usually used in continuous forms.

ACTION



I **read** every day. 

I **am reading** right now. 

STATE



I **own** two cars. 

I **am owning** two cars. 



2.2 KEY LANGUAGE USING STATE VERBS IN CONTINUOUS FORMS

Some verbs can be both action and state verbs. When these verbs are describing an action, they can be used in continuous forms.

ACTION



I **am thinking** about taking up fencing.

[Right now, I'm considering taking up fencing.]

STATE



I **think** fencing is a great sport.

[In my opinion, fencing is a great sport.]



The chef **is tasting** his soup.

[The chef is testing the soup's flavor.]



This soup **tastes** disgusting!

[The soup has a disgusting flavor.]

Other state verbs can be used in continuous forms. They keep their stative meaning, but emphasize a change, development, or temporary situation.

CONTINUOUS FORM



Are you **feeling** better today?

You seemed sick yesterday.



SIMPLE FORM

How do you **feel**

about Modern art?





2.3 MARK THE SENTENCES THAT ARE CORRECT

He's wanting to buy a house.

He wants to buy a house.

1 She has long, wavy hair.

She's having long, wavy hair.

2 Sorry, I'm not believing you.

Sorry, I don't believe you.

3 That jacket fits you very well.

That jacket is fitting you very well.

4 I rarely think about the past.

I'm rarely thinking about the past.

5 Jess is having a great time at the party.

Jess has a great time at the party.

6 That milk is smelling dreadful.

That milk smells dreadful.

7 I'm thinking about going home soon.

I think about going home soon.

8 I'm slowly realizing the problem here.

I slowly realize the problem here.

9 You seem unhappy. Can I help?

You're seeming unhappy. Can I help?



2.4 FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE WORDS IN THE PANEL

Hi Sara,

I'm writing about Gavin. I think there's something wrong. I'm not suggesting that it's anything serious, but he doesn't seem to be his usual happy self. Maybe he's not fitting in well in his new job. I was going to suggest that the three of us go out for a drink, or perhaps you would prefer a meal. Let me know what you think.

Tina

seem

suggest

think

suggesting

prefer

fitting

02 ✓ CHECKLIST

State verbs in continuous forms

Action and state verbs

Describing states