

Stative Verbs

Stative verbs describe **states**; how is something? A basic example of this would be:

"She is happy."

Stative verbs are normally used in "simple" tenses, *ie.* do not use them in the continuous form:

"She is hungry" and not "~~She is being hungry.~~"

This rule applies no matter how temporary the states they are describing:

~~"At the moment, I am liking Adele's album."~~

It is useful to divide the other examples into four groups; emotional states, mental states, appearance/senses and possession.

Emotional States	Mental States	Senses	Possession
to like/dislike	to believe	to be	to have
to love	to think (opinion)	to seem	to own
to hate	to know	to look (seem)	to include
to hope	to understand	to sound	to depend (on)
to want	to imagine	to appear	to belong (to)
to wish	to remember	to see	to consist (of)
to mean	to realise	to smell	to contain
to prefer	to recognise	to taste	to involve
to impress	to mean	to hear	to owe
to mind	to agree/disagree		to possess
to surprise	to doubt		to lack
to please	to suppose		
to astonish	to promise		
	to deny		

Notice how *to have* is in the "possession" column. Be careful with this verb; it is only stative when used to mean "to possess". There are many set expressions using *to have* which can be used in the continuous form:

"We were **having breakfast** when the phone rang..."

"I come tomorrow because I'm **having a dinner party**...."

"Don't stop me now, I'm **having a good time**..."

As you can see above, the rules about stative verbs apply in the **past, present** and **future**.