NON-ACTION / STATE VERBS

State verbs express a situation or process that exists, rather than describing a definite action. We often prefer to use the present simple rather than the present continuous with verbs describing states. e.g. she has blue eyes

- The most representative are the auxiliaries except "be" and "have" in certain circumstances.

Other common state verbs include

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VERBS OF THE MIND</th>
<th>VERBS OF EMOTIONS</th>
<th>VERBS OF SENSES</th>
<th>VERBS OF HAVING &amp; BEING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>agree</td>
<td>adore</td>
<td>feel</td>
<td>appear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>consider</td>
<td>care</td>
<td>hear</td>
<td>belong to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>believe</td>
<td>detest</td>
<td>look =seem</td>
<td>consist of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deserve</td>
<td>dislike</td>
<td>see=understand</td>
<td>contain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disagree</td>
<td>enjoy</td>
<td>smell</td>
<td>cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>doubt</td>
<td>envy</td>
<td>sound</td>
<td>depend</td>
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<tr>
<td>expect</td>
<td>hate</td>
<td>taste</td>
<td>exist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forget</td>
<td>hope</td>
<td></td>
<td>fit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>guess</td>
<td>impress</td>
<td></td>
<td>have = possess</td>
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<tr>
<td>imagine</td>
<td>like</td>
<td></td>
<td>include</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>know</td>
<td>love</td>
<td></td>
<td>involve</td>
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<tr>
<td>mean</td>
<td>mind</td>
<td></td>
<td>keep</td>
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<tr>
<td>promise</td>
<td>prefer</td>
<td></td>
<td>matter</td>
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<tr>
<td>realize</td>
<td>surprise</td>
<td></td>
<td>measure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recognize</td>
<td>want</td>
<td></td>
<td>need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>remember</td>
<td>wish</td>
<td></td>
<td>owe</td>
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<tr>
<td>resemble</td>
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<td></td>
<td>own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suppose</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>possess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>think = believe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>seem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>understand</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

However, we can use the present continuous with some state verbs when we want to emphasise that a situation is temporary, for a period of time around the present. Compare:

The children love having Jean stay with us. (They love it when Jean stays) and

The children are loving having Jean stay with us. (Jean is staying with us now)

With some verbs (e.g. ache, feel, hurt, look = "seem"), there is little difference in meaning when we use the present simple and present continuous.

What's the matter with Bill? He looks / is looking awful.
Some verbs can be both stative and dynamic:

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

**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 (stative)** = see with your eyes / understand
I see what you mean

**see (dynamic)** = meet / have a relationship with
I’m seeing Robert tomorrow

**taste** (also: smell, feel, look) **(stative)** = has a certain taste
This soup tastes great

**taste (dynamic)** = the action of tasting
The chef is tasting the soup

**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
EXERCISE 1
Complete the sentences with one of the verbs from the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>cost</th>
<th>look</th>
<th>prefer</th>
<th>belong</th>
<th>smell</th>
<th>see</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>forget</td>
<td>depend</td>
<td>remember</td>
<td>need</td>
<td>own</td>
<td>think</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. This bag ________ to me.
2. I ________ some new trousers. These are too old
3. This vase ________ less than 30€
4. You ________ amazing! Where did you buy that suit?
5. He _______________ of going to France.
6. On Saturday we might go to the beach. It __________ on the weather.
7. I like both skiing and climbing, but I ________climbing.
8. This cake ________ delicious! Did you do it yourself?
9. I ___________ when we went to London. We had a great time!
10. Do you ________ this flat or do you rent it?
11. I ____________ John tomorrow.

EXERCISE 2
Complete the sentences with one of the verbs from the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>hurt</th>
<th>belong</th>
<th>do</th>
<th>have</th>
<th>help</th>
<th>hold</th>
<th>move</th>
<th>use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>watch</td>
<td>think</td>
<td>have</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. In Monopoly, you __________ around the board, buying houses and hotels.
13. ________ you ________ this programme or can I turn off the TV?
14. Regular exercise __________ you stay healthy.
15. I ________ my mother's guitar until I get a new one.
16. ________ Simon always ________ the washing-up after lunch?
17. You ________________ the kite right. Let me show you.
18. Dad ________ to the local astronomy club.
19. My leg _______________________ badly.
20. We ________________ a party next weekend. Will you come?
EXERCISE 1 - KEY
Complete the sentences with one of the verbs from the box.

1. This bag **belongs** to me.
2. I **need** some new trousers. These are too old.
3. This vase **costs** less than 30€.
4. You **look** amazing. Where did you buy that suit?
5. He **is thinking** of going to France.
6. On Saturday we might go to the beach. It **depends** on the weather.
7. I like both skiing and climbing, but I **prefer** climbing.
8. This cake **smells** delicious! Did you do it yourself?
9. I **remember** when we went to London. We had a great time!
10. Do you **own** this flat or do you rent it?
11. I’m **seeing** John tomorrow.

EXERCISE 2 - KEY

12. In Monopoly, you **move** around the board, buying houses and hotels.
13. Are you **watching** this programme or can I turn off the TV?
14. Regular exercise **helps** you stay healthy.
15. I **am using** my mother’s guitar until I get a new one.
16. Does Simon always **do** the washing-up after lunch?
17. You aren’t holding the kite right. Let me show you.
18. Dad **belongs** to the local astronomy club.
19. My leg **is hurting / hurts** badly.
20. We **are having** a party next weekend. Will you come?