

TALKING ABOUT PRESENT:

I Heart English 2



TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING HAPPENING NOW:

Things to remember - stative verb - Present simple tense (Correct: I feel happy now. Incorrect: I am feeling happy now.)

Action verbs - Present continuous (Correct: I am reading a book now. Incorrect: I read a book now.)

Understanding Stative Verbs vs. Action Verbs

When talking about situations happening in the present moment, it's important to recognize the difference between **stative verbs** and **action verbs**.

1. **Stative Verbs** describe states, conditions, feelings, or perceptions. These verbs refer to a situation or condition that is *constant* or unchanging at the time of speaking. Importantly, stative verbs are not usually used in the continuous form, even if they refer to something happening right now.
2. **Action Verbs** refer to physical or mental actions. These verbs describe things that are *happening* or are *in progress* at the moment of speaking. Action verbs can be used in both simple present and present continuous tense, with the continuous form being commonly used to indicate an ongoing action.

Stative Verbs in Use

Stative verbs are typically used in the **simple present tense**, even when they refer to something that is happening at the time of speaking. Here are examples of some common stative verbs and how they are used in situations happening right now:

1. Appear

- *Right now, he **appears** confused by the instructions.*
(Even though this is happening at the moment, we do not say, "He is appearing confused.")

2. See

- *I **see** the birds flying outside the window right now.*
(This refers to a perception happening now, but "see" is stative, so we do not say "I am seeing the birds.")

3. Seem

- *It **seems** like they're running late.*
(This is a current impression, but "seem" stays in the simple present tense.)

4. Smell

- *The flowers **smell** wonderful right now.*
(The sensation of smell is current, but we do not say "are smelling.")

5. Taste

- *This soup **tastes** delicious at the moment.*
(The taste is perceived now, but "taste" remains in simple present.)

6. Belong

- *This pen **belongs** to me right now.*
(Even though ownership is relevant at this moment, we do not use "belong" in the continuous form.)

7. Have

- *I **have** my keys in my pocket right now.*
(The possession is ongoing, but we don't say "I am having my keys.")

8. Own

- *She **owns** that car parked outside.*
(Ownership is current, but the verb "own" stays in simple present.)

9. Possess

- *He **possesses** the skills needed for this job right now.*
(His possession of skills is constant and ongoing, so we don't use "possessing.")

10. Look (When referring to appearance)

- *You **look** tired today.*
(This is a description of appearance at the moment, but we don't say "you are looking tired.")

Action Verbs in Use

Unlike stative verbs, **action verbs** describe activities or processes that are actively taking place. When an action is happening right now, we commonly use the **present continuous tense** to express this. Here are examples of how action verbs are used to describe situations in progress:

1. Run

- *They **are running** in the park right now.*
(The action of running is ongoing at the moment of speaking.)

2. Work

- *She **is working** on her assignment at this moment.*
(The work is in progress, so the continuous tense is used.)

3. Watch

- *We **are watching** a movie right now.*
(The act of watching is happening at this moment.)

4. Eat

- *He **is eating** dinner at the moment.*
(The action of eating is ongoing.)

5. Talk

- *I **am talking** to my friend on the phone right now.*
(The conversation is happening now, so we use the continuous tense.)

6. Listen

- *They **are listening** to music at the moment.*
(The action of listening is occurring now.)

7. Write

- *She **is writing** a letter right now.*
(The act of writing is in progress.)

8. Cook

- He **is cooking** dinner right now.
(This action is ongoing.)

9. Study

- They **are studying** for their exams at the moment.
(The action of studying is happening right now.)

10. Play

- The children **are playing** in the yard right now.
(The action is currently taking place.)

Summary of Key Differences

- **Stative Verbs** (e.g., see, seem, belong, have) are typically used in the **simple present tense** even when they refer to something happening now. They describe states or conditions that are generally constant or ongoing.
 - Example: *Right now, I **have** a lot of work to do.* (Not *I am having*).
- **Action Verbs** (e.g., run, work, play, eat) are often used in the **present continuous tense** to describe actions that are actively taking place at the time of speaking.
 - Example: *Right now, I **am working** on my project.*