

# 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 <b>likes</b> frozen peas."	not	"Annie <b>is liking</b> frozen peas."
We say:	"I <b>saw</b> a bird sitting on a branch."	not	"I <b>was seeing</b> a bird sitting on a branch."
We say:	"Sue <b>is</b> nearly forty years old."	not	"Sue <b>is being</b> 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 \*