

Action and State Verbs: Overview

FORM:

Action Verbs: I'm having a party tonight.
 He eats cereal every morning.
 State Verbs: I have two sisters.
 The flowers smell beautiful.

USE:

Some verbs are not used in the continuous (-ing) form. They are called **STATE** verbs because they describe states or conditions, not actions. Many **STATE** verbs can be put in 4 groups:

<u>Emotion</u>	<u>Mental Activity</u>	<u>Perception</u>	<u>Possession</u>
love	think	see	have
like	believe	hear	own
hate	know	feel	belong
want	understand	smell	
appreciate	remember	taste	
prefer	mean	seem	

Other Common State Verbs: be, need, weigh, cost, owe

EXAMPLES:

She loves me, but she hates my motorcycle.
NOT: She is loving me, but she is hating my motorcycle.
They think Montreal is a nice city.
NOT: They are thinking Montreal is a nice city.

Complete the sentences with the **SIMPLE PRESENT** or **PRESENT PROGRESSIVE** form of the verb given.

- I _____ (feel) that the students _____ (need) more practice with this grammar.
- Theresa _____ (sleep) now but please call back later. I know she _____ (want) to talk to you.
- The kitchen _____ (smell) wonderful because my mom _____ (cook) dinner.
- He _____ (study) now because he _____ (not understand) this work.
- I _____ (smell) smoke. I _____ (think) something _____ (burn).
- Tony _____ (be) an actor but he _____ (work) as a waiter right now.