

## Action and State Verbs: Exceptions

**FORM:**

**I have two sisters.      I'm having a party.**  
**I think you are nice.      Shh! I'm thinking.**

**USE:**

Some **STATE** verbs can also be used to describe actions. In this case, the continuous form of the verb is usually used to distinguish the meaning from the **STATE** meaning.

**EXAMPLES:**

*I think hockey is an exciting sport.      I am thinking about this problem now.*  
(opinion)      (mental process)

*This cake smells delicious.      He is smelling the milk to see if it is okay.*  
(perception)      (action)

*He is Chinese.      The child is being very quiet.*  
(identity)      (behaving)

*Decide if each verb refers to an ACTION or a STATE, then complete each sentence with the simple present or present continuous tense. In some cases, both tenses may be correct.*

1. My husband \_\_\_\_\_ (think) golf is great, but I \_\_\_\_\_ (hate) the sport.
2. My husband and I \_\_\_\_\_ (think) about taking a vacation to Mexico next month.
3. The cashier \_\_\_\_\_ (weigh) the fruit to see how much I have to pay.
4. It looks like the children \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a good time playing soccer.
5. I'm sorry. The lawyer is busy right now. He \_\_\_\_\_ (see) a client.
6. Julie \_\_\_\_\_ (taste) her coffee to see if there is enough sugar in it before she drinks it.
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) what you mean but I disagree.
8. You are a good cook! This chicken \_\_\_\_\_ (taste) wonderful.
9. Can you come back in ten minutes? I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) lunch right now.
10. Troy \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a car. Maybe he can drive you to school today.
11. The baby is getting big. She \_\_\_\_\_ (weigh) almost 10 kilograms.
12. Patty \_\_\_\_\_ (have) her own apartment now, so she \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a party tonight