

Present Continuous: State Verbs

USE: State verbs describe states, situations and conditions that we do not expect to change. They do not describe actions. We therefore do NOT use state verbs in the continuous form.

I know your sister. **NOT** *I am knowing your sister.*
Those flowers smell wonderful! **NOT** *Those flowers are smelling*
wonderful!

Here are some examples of state verbs.

Emotions	Mental Activity	Wants	Senses	Ownership
<i>like</i>	<i>think remember</i>	<i>prefer</i>	<i>feel smell</i>	<i>have</i>
<i>love</i>	<i>mean forget</i>	<i>need</i>	<i>taste</i>	<i>own</i>
<i>hate</i>	<i>believe seem</i>	<i>want</i>	<i>see</i>	<i>belong</i>
	<i>understand know</i>		<i>hear</i>	

BE CAREFUL!!

Think, see have are used for both states and actions but with different meanings.

I think you are pretty. (OPINION) **AND** *I am thinking about him.*
(ACTION)

I see you in the mirror. (SENSES) **AND** *She is seeing a lawyer. (DATING)*

I have a cat. (OWNERSHIP) **AND** *I am having a shower. (ACTION)*

There are nine mistakes in the dialogue below. Find them and make the corrections.

Doug: Look at that dog. It runs after the cat.

Kate: I am liking dogs but I am not liking cats.

Doug: Really? I love cats! I am owning three!

Kate: You are crazy.

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Doug: I think cats are funny. Look the cat climbs the tree.

Kate: Smart cat! The dog tries to climb the tree also.

Doug: Dumb dog! It is belonging to my neighbour. I forget his name.

Kate: I am remembering. He is Mr. Fujimori.

Doug: Right! He is having two other dogs as well.