

A2 TEENS · GRAMMAR · LESSON 05

Do you *really love* pizza?

Some verbs don't move. They sit still. They describe how you **feel**, what you **think**, what you **own**, or what your senses **notice**. These are **stative verbs** — and they almost never go in the Continuous form. Let's find out why.

🕒 45 min · ✓ CEFR A2 · ♦ Stative Verbs · ♥ Feelings & Senses

01

WARM-UP

Quick check: how do you feel?

Tell me about right now...

Answer with full sentences. Try to use the verbs in the questions.

- 01 What food do you *love* the most? What food do you *hate*?
- 02 Do you *believe* animals have feelings? Why or why not?
- 03 Right now, what can you *see*, *hear*, and *smell* around you?
- 04 Do you *have* any pets, brothers, or sisters? How many?

02

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Verbs that don't "move"

What is a stative verb?

Most verbs describe **actions** — things we *do*. We can see them happening: **run**, **eat**, **write**, **sleep**. These are **action verbs**. They can be Continuous: *I am running*.

But some verbs describe **states** — things we *are* or *feel* or *think*. We can't see them happening. They have no beginning and no end at this exact moment: **love**, **know**, **want**, **have**, **see**. These are **stative verbs**.

The big rule: Stative verbs almost never use the Continuous form. We use the **Present Simple**, even when we mean "right now".

The four families of stative verbs

Stative verbs come in four main groups. Memorise them by family:

SENSES

what your eyes, ears, nose taste

see · hear · smell · taste · feel

*I **hear** a strange noise. (not "I am hearing")*

FEELINGS & LIKES

emotions and preferences

love · like · hate · want · need · prefer

*She **loves** her new puppy. (not "is loving")*

THOUGHTS & BELIEFS

what's in your mind

know · believe · understand · remember · think · mean

*I **know** the answer! (not "am knowing")*

POSSESSION & BEING

what you own or are

have · own · belong · seem · be · cost

*They **have** three cats. (not "are having")*

The most common mistake

When students learn Present Continuous, they sometimes use it everywhere. With stative verbs, this is wrong:

<p>X WRONG</p> <p>I am loving this pizza right now.</p> <p>"Love" is a feeling. We can't see "loving" happening — it's a state.</p>	<p>✓ RIGHT</p> <p>I love this pizza right now.</p> <p>Use Simple. The word "right now" doesn't change the rule.</p>
<p>X WRONG</p> <p>She is wanting a coffee.</p> <p>"Want" is a feeling/need. It's a state, not an action.</p>	<p>✓ RIGHT</p> <p>She wants a coffee.</p> <p>Simple form is correct.</p>
<p>X WRONG</p> <p>I am knowing the answer.</p> <p>"Know" is in your mind. You can't be "knowing" — you just know.</p>	<p>✓ RIGHT</p> <p>I know the answer.</p> <p>Mental states use Present Simple.</p>

Some verbs change meaning!

A few verbs can be both stative and action — but the meaning changes. This is the trickiest part of the lesson.

🔄 "Have" — possession or activity?

When "have" means own, it's stative. When it means do an activity (have lunch, have a shower), it can be Continuous!

STATE (SIMPLE ONLY)

I **have** a new bike.

= *I own a bike.*

ACTION (CONTINUOUS OK)

I **am having** lunch.

= *I'm eating right now.*

🔄 "Think" — opinion or process?

When "think" means have an opinion, it's stative. When it means consider/process, it can be Continuous!

STATE (SIMPLE ONLY)

I **think** she is nice.

= *My opinion is that...*

ACTION (CONTINUOUS OK)

I **am thinking** about her.

= *She's in my mind right now.*

🔄 "See" — perceive or meet?

When "see" means perceive with eyes, it's stative. When it means meet/visit, it can be Continuous!

STATE (SIMPLE ONLY)

I **see** a bird in the tree.

= *My eyes notice it.*

ACTION (CONTINUOUS OK)

I **am seeing** the doctor tomorrow.

= *I'm meeting the doctor.*

03

KEY VOCABULARY

Words for what you feel

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
prefer verb (stative)	to like one thing more than another	<i>I prefer tea to coffee.</i>
believe verb (stative)	to think that something is true	<i>I believe she is telling the truth.</i>
recognise verb (stative)	to know someone or something when you see them again	<i>I recognise that song!</i>
depend verb	to need something / "it depends" = not always the same	<i>"Do you like maths?" "It depends."</i>
notice verb	to see or feel something for the first time	<i>She notices small details.</i>
opinion noun	what you think about something	<i>Everyone has a different opinion.</i>
flavour noun	the taste of food or drink	<i>Vanilla is my favourite flavour.</i>
memory noun	something you remember from the past	<i>I have happy memories of my grandma.</i>
favourite adjective	the one you like the most	<i>Pizza is my favourite food.</i>
honest adjective	telling the truth, even when difficult	<i>Be honest — do you really like this?</i>

04

READING

Three honest food diaries

TASTE TEST · ISSUE 05

Do You *Really* Love Pizza?*Three teens, three weeks, one big food question*

We asked three teenagers to keep a "food honesty diary" for one week. The rule? Use stative verbs. Be honest about what you really feel, see, smell, and want.

SOFIA, 16, BRAZIL — Tuesday evening

"I always say I **love** pizza. But tonight my mum made *moqueca*. The smell — I **smell** coconut, lime, fresh fish. I **feel** hungry just thinking about it. I **remember** the first time my grandma cooked this for me. I **think** about her every time I taste it. So... do I really **prefer** pizza? Honestly, I don't know. Some foods **mean** more than just flavour."

HIROSHI, 14, JAPAN — Saturday lunch

"My friends say I **am having** lunch at school every day, but I don't really **like** the cafeteria food. I **prefer** my mum's onigiri. Today I **see** three of my classmates eating instant noodles. They **say** they **love** them. But I **notice** they always finish my onigiri when I share it! I **think** they **love** noodles in their words but they **prefer** real food in their stomach."

AMIRA, 17, MOROCCO — Friday afternoon

"This week I **am thinking** a lot about food. (Yes, that's Continuous — I'm using my brain!) I **believe** food is more than fuel. Today, I **smell** mint tea from across the room. I **recognise** the smell instantly. I **have** happy memories of my whole family around one tea pot. So when people ask, 'What's your favourite food?', I always **say** — it **depends**. It **depends** on who's at the table."

What we learned: Stative verbs (*love, hate, prefer, believe, remember, smell, see, know*) are how we describe our opinions and feelings. They almost always stay in the Simple form. But notice Hiroshi's "*am having lunch*" and Amira's "*am thinking*" — those are **action** meanings, so Continuous is fine. The verb is the same, but the meaning is different.

05

PRACTICE

Simple or Continuous? Choose carefully.

★ Each sentence has a hint tag. **FEELING / SENSE / THOUGHT / POSSESSION** are usually Simple. **ACTION** means the meaning has changed!

1 Sofia _____ her grandma's cooking.

is loving

loves

love

FEELING

2 Listen! I _____ a strange noise.

am hearing

hear

hears

SENSE

3 My family _____ dinner right now — call back later!

has

have

is having

ACTION

4 I _____ his story at all.

am not believing

don't believe

not believe

THOUGHT

5 Hiroshi _____ three best friends at school.

is having

have

has

POSSESSION

6 I _____ about a school project right now.

think

thinks

am thinking

ACTION

7 Amira _____ her grandmother's perfume so clearly.

is remembering

remembers

remember

THOUGHT

8 This soup _____ amazing — what's in it?

is tasting

taste

tastes

SENSE

06 **SPEAKING**
The honest opinion game

Tell your partner the truth

Ask your partner each question. They must answer honestly — using stative verbs. No "Hmm, I'm liking it"! Only love, hate, prefer, believe, think, know, remember, want...

- ▶ What food do you really love? What food do you hate?
- ▶ Do you prefer summer or winter? Why?
- ▶ What do you remember about your first day of school?
- ▶ Do you believe in luck? In ghosts? In second chances?
- ▶ Right now, what can you see, hear, and smell around you?

EXAMPLE CONVERSATION

A: What food do you really love?

B: I love my mother's lasagna. But I also really love spicy noodles. It depends on my mood.

A: Do you prefer salty or sweet?

B: I prefer salty 100% of the time. I don't really understand people who choose dessert over chips!

A: What do you smell right now?

B: I smell coffee from the kitchen. Someone is having breakfast.

07 **WRITING**
Your honest food diary

Write a food honesty diary entry (70-100 words)

Like Sofia, Hiroshi, and Amira in the reading, write a short diary entry about a food memory or opinion. Use as many stative verbs as you can.

- at least 4 stative verbs (love, hate, prefer, believe, remember, know, want...)
- at least one sensory verb (see, hear, smell, taste, feel)
- at least one "have" used in the stative meaning (= possession)
- NO mistakes like "I am loving" or "She is wanting"

Blank writing area with horizontal lines for text entry.

08

QUIZ

Check your understanding

Circle the correct answer. Check your answers at the end.

1. Which sentence is CORRECT?

- A. I am loving this song!
- B. I love this song!
- C. I am love this song!
- D. I loves this song!

2. Choose the WRONG sentence:

- A. She wants a new bike.
- B. I see a bird outside.
- C. He is knowing the answer.
- D. They have two dogs.

3. Which one is in the CORRECT continuous form?

- A. I am having a new phone.
- B. I am having lunch right now.
- C. I am believing you.
- D. I am wanting an ice cream.

4. Sofia loves her grandma's cooking. "Loves" is a verb of:

- A. sense
- B. feeling
- C. thought
- D. possession

5. Which sentence uses "think" CORRECTLY?

- A. I am thinking she is nice.
- B. I think about her right now.
- C. I am thinking about a problem.
- D. I think about her every day, so I am thinking she is great.

6. Listen! I ____ a strange sound.

- A. am hearing
- B. hear
- C. hears

D. am hear

7. Choose the CORRECT sentence:

- A. She is owning three cats.
- B. She is having three cats.
- C. She owns three cats.
- D. She owning three cats.

8. From the reading: Hiroshi noticed that his friends always ____ his onigiri.

- A. are finishing
- B. finishing
- C. finish
- D. finishes

ANSWER KEY

Fill in the blanks:

1. loves · 2. hear · 3. is having · 4. don't believe
5. has · 6. am thinking · 7. remembers · 8. tastes

Quiz:

1. B · 2. C · 3. B · 4. B · 5. C · 6. B · 7. C · 8. C

Beautiful work! Next lesson: Past Simple — "Yesterday's biggest mistake"