

Stative and Dynamic Verb

Lesson 24

Lesson 24 – Stative and Dynamic Verb

Firstly, what do the words "dynamic" and "stative" mean?

Dynamic verbs vs. **stative verbs** can cause confusion among students.

But really they aren't as difficult or as complicated as you may think. The most important reason you need to know about these is because stative verbs can't usually be used in the progressive form.

Dynamic

"Dynamic" is an adjective which means something is moving or changing.

In English grammar a "dynamic verb" means that the verb **describes an action** rather than a state. Dynamic verbs are sometimes known as "action verbs."



Joe is **chasing** the bus.

Lesson 24 – Stative and Dynamic Verb

Stative

"Stative" is an adjective which describes something as having a state, or existing (this is a very uncommon adjective).

In English grammar a "stative verb" means that the verb **describes a state** rather than an action.

Stative verbs are sometimes known as "state verbs."

Example sentences with dynamic verbs:

- "I can't talk right now, I'm eating dinner."

Present progressive used to describe an action happening now.

- "Sorry, I'm out of breath because I've been running."

Present perfect progressive used to describe an action that started in the past, continued for some time and has results now.



Kevin **wants** some cake.

Example sentences with stative verbs:

Correct: "I like chocolate, but I prefer cake."

Incorrect: "I'm liking chocolate but I'm preferring cake."

Correct: "I don't understand you when you speak quickly."

Incorrect: "I'm not understanding you when you speak quickly."

Lesson 24 – Stative and Dynamic Verb

There are also some verbs that can be either dynamic or stative, depending on their meaning and context in the sentence. I'm sure you know by now that there are many words in English that can have more than one meaning!

Examples of verbs that can be either dynamic or stative:

think mind have smell sound

Example sentences:

"I think it is wrong to hit children."

Here, *think* is a stative verb. It means "to have an opinion" and it cannot be used in the progressive form in this case.

BUT

"I'm thinking about buying a new car."

Here, *thinking* is describing a process, or an action. This is something that is happening, rather than simply being. So here we can use the progressive form.

"I don't mind if we watch a movie tonight."

Here, *mind* means "be bothered by", which is a state of mind, not an action. Therefore, it is stative.

BUT

"I'm not being nosy. I'm minding my own business!"

Here, *minding* means "looking after" and is therefore a process and a dynamic verb.

I have three brothers."

Have here talks about the family relationship the speaker has with her brothers and is therefore stative.

BUT

"I'm having a bad day today. I'll call you when things are better."

Having in this sentence means the speaker is going through the process of a bad day. It is therefore dynamic.

Lesson 24 – Stative and Dynamic Verb

Stative Verbs

Stative verbs usually refer to a state or condition which is quite static or unchanging. They can be divided into verbs of **perception** or **cognition** (which refer to things in the mind), or verbs of **relation** (which describe the relationships between things). Here are some examples:

Stative Verb	Type	Examples
hate	perception	I hate chocolate.
believe	perception	She believes in UFOs.
contain	relation	The box contains 24 cans of soda.
own	relation	Yong owns three motorbikes.

(NOTE that we CANNOT use these verbs in the continuous (progressive) forms; you CAN'T say "*Yong is owning three cars." Owning is a state, not an action, so it is always in the simple form.)

Stative Verbs	love; hate; like; see; hear; sound; think (meaning "have an opinion"); mind (meaning "care about"); recognize; seem; have (meaning "own"); prefer; doubt; consist of; mean
----------------------	--

Lesson 24 – Stative and Dynamic Verb

Grammar *ACTIVITY*

Choose the present simple or present continuous (these verbs are sometimes stative):

1. She _____ (have) a bath every evening.
2. My husband _____ (always / taste) the food while I'm cooking! It's very annoying.
3. A: Where's Luke?
B: He _____ (see) the doctor now.
4. I _____ (not / think) that's a good idea.
5. He _____ (have) a party at the weekend.
6. This coffee _____ (not / taste) right.
7. We _____ (see) John and Susie next weekend.
8. What _____ (you / think) about the war in Iraq?
9. She _____ (have) a headache.
10. It _____ (be) cold today.
11. They _____ (not / have) a car.
12. I _____ (not / see) anything, I can't work the telescope.
13. The waiter _____ (taste) the wine now.
14. She _____ (not / be) a doctor.
15. A: What _____ (that child / do)?
B: He _____ (be) silly.

Lesson 24 – Stative and Dynamic Verb

Grammar *ACTIVITY*

Complete each sentence using the stative verb from the parenthesis:

1. Do you _____ the answer? (depend on, know, include)
2. Jim _____ dessert every day. (has, eats, possesses)
3. I _____ good about the race's outcome. (am, were, feel)
4. She _____ her mother. (imagines, resembles, walks with)
5. Do you _____ they will win? (think, involve, promise)
6. They really _____ everything you did for them. (include, appreciate, dislike)
7. I think the teacher was _____ with my speech. (involved, measured, satisfied)
8. Can you _____ the coffee brewing? (feel, smell, dislike)
9. I still _____ a lot of money on my student loans. (deserve, owe, involve)
10. You _____ more shoes than anyone else I know! (dislike, suppose, have)

Lesson 24 – Stative and Dynamic Verb

Grammar *ACTIVITY*

Put the verb into the correct form. Use either the present simple or the present continuous

1. Please don't make so much noise. I _____ (study).
2. How many languages _____ (Tom speak).
3. I _____ (not/belong) to a political party.
4. Hurry! The bus _____ (come). I _____ (not/want) to miss it.
5. The River Nile _____ (flow) into the Mediterranean.
6. The river _____ (flow) very fast today — much faster than usual.
7. _____ (it/ever/snow) in India?
8. We usually _____ (grow) vegetables in our garden, but this year we _____ (not/grow) any.
9. A: Can you drive?
B: No, but I _____ (learn). My father _____ (teach) me.
10. You can borrow my umbrella. I _____ (not/need) it at the moment.
11. (at a party) I usually _____ (enjoy) parties but I _____ (not/enjoy) this one very much.
12. George says he's 80- years old but I _____ (not/believe) him.
13. Ron is in London at the moment. He _____ (stay) at the Hilton Hotel. He usually _____ (stay) at the Hilton Hotel when he's in London.
14. My parents _____ (live) in Bristol. They were born there and have never lived anywhere else. Where _____ (your/parents/live)?
15. She _____ (stay) with her sister at the moment, until she finds somewhere to live.
16. A: What _____ (your father/do)?
B: He's a teacher, but he _____ (not/work) at the moment.
17. What time _____ (the banks/close) in Britain?
18. I don't understand the word 'aint'. What _____ (it/mean)?
19. He is still ill but he _____ (get/better) slowly.
20. The economic situation is already bad and it _____ (get/worse).

Lesson 24 – Stative and Dynamic Verb

Dynamic Verbs

Dynamic verbs (sometimes referred to as "action verbs") usually describe actions we can take, or things that happen; stative verbs usually refer to a state or condition which is not changing or likely to change. The difference is important, because stative verbs cannot normally be used in the continuous (BE + ING) forms. This will explain the differences between the two types of verb, and give lots of examples of each kind.

There are many types of dynamic verbs, but most of them describe activities or events which can begin and finish. Here are some examples:

Dynamic Verb	Type	Examples
play	activity	She plays tennis every Friday. She's playing tennis right now.
melt	process	The snow melts every spring. The snow is melting right now
hit	momentary action	When one boxer hits another, brain damage can result. (This suggests only ONE punch.) When one boxer is hitting another, brain damage can result. (This suggests MANY repeated punches.)

Lesson 24 – Stative and Dynamic Verb

Dynamic verbs, as you can see from the table above, can be used in the simple and perfect forms (*plays, played, has played, had played*) as well as the continuous or progressive forms (*is playing, was playing, has been playing, had been playing*).

Examples of dynamic verbs:

Supply the simple past tense, present participle and past participle

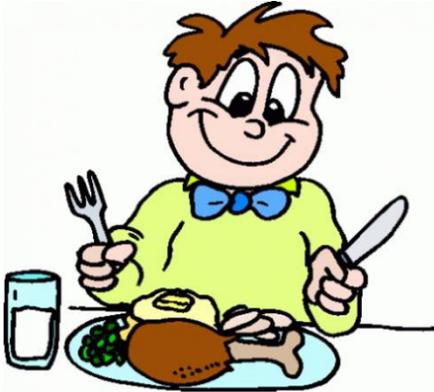
Eg. Study = studied – studying – studied

eat	_____	_____	_____
walk	_____	_____	_____
learn	_____	_____	_____
grow	_____	_____	_____
sleep	_____	_____	_____
talk	_____	_____	_____
write	_____	_____	_____
run	_____	_____	_____
read	_____	_____	_____
become	_____	_____	_____
go	_____	_____	_____

Lesson 24 – Stative and Dynamic Verb

These words can all be used in the progressive form.

Examples:



"I can't talk right now,
I'm eating dinner."

*(Present progressive
used to describe an
action happening now.)*



"Sorry, I'm out of breath
because **I've been**
running."

*(Present perfect progressive
used to describe an action
that started in the past,
continued for some time and
has results now.)*



"I didn't steal the
necklace! I **was sleeping**
when someone broke into
the shop!"

*(Past progressive used to talk
about an action that was
happening at a particular
time in the past.)*

Lesson 24 – Stative and Dynamic Verb

Grammar *ACTIVITY*

Put the verbs in brackets in their correct form. Some verbs are stative verbs and some are dynamic verbs. Use the simple present or present progressive tense.

1. Actually, that _____ (sound) wonderful.
2. We _____ (cook) right now.
3. I _____ (promise) to be back soon.
4. Frank and his wife _____ (disagree) on this matter.
5. He _____ (own) several large companies.
6. _____ you _____ (hear) Richard's voice now?
7. _____ you _____ (study) at the moment?
8. I _____ (mean) to hurt you.
9. _____ you _____ (mind) taking out the garbage?
10. I seriously _____ (doubt) it.
11. _____ you _____ (recognize) this painting now?
12. He _____ (appear) a bit snobbish.
13. She _____ (not wash) the dishes now.
14. _____ it really _____ (matter) now?
15. Right now it _____ (seem) cold outside.
16. I _____ (suppose) we could do that, too.
17. Janet _____ (not realize) how much he loves her.
18. _____ this dog _____ (belong) to you?
19. It _____ (rain) right now.
20. I _____ (not know) the right answer right now.

Lesson 24 – Stative and Dynamic Verb

Grammar *ACTIVITY*

Identify whether each verb below is DYNAMIC or STATIVE and use each of them in your own sentences

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. read | 11. look | 21. jump |
| 2. know | 12. have | 22. want |
| 3. play | 13. imagine | 23. remember |
| 4. seem | 14. see | 24. fix |
| 5. drive | 15. think | 25. call |
| 6. understand | 16. expect | 26. own |
| 7. grow | 17. study | 27. belong |
| 8. believe | 18. love | 28. know |
| 9. paint | 19. taste | 29. find |
| 10. write | 20. change | 30. realize |

The End