Stative and Dynamic Verb

Lesson 24
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.
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.

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."
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.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stative Verb</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hate</td>
<td>perception</td>
<td>I hate chocolate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>believe</td>
<td>perception</td>
<td>She believes in UFOs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contain</td>
<td>relation</td>
<td>The box contains 24 cans of soda.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>own</td>
<td>relation</td>
<td>Yong owns three motorbikes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(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
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.
   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.
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)
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).
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dynamic Verb</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>play</td>
<td>activity</td>
<td>She plays tennis every Friday. She's playing tennis right now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>melt</td>
<td>process</td>
<td>The snow melts every spring. The snow is melting right now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hit</td>
<td>momentary action</td>
<td>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.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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.)
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.
Identify whether each verb below is DYNAMIC or STATIVE and use each of them in your own sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dynamic Verbs</th>
<th>Stative Verbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>read</td>
<td>look</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>know</td>
<td>have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>play</td>
<td>imagine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seem</td>
<td>see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drive</td>
<td>think</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>understand</td>
<td>expect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grow</td>
<td>study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>believe</td>
<td>love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paint</td>
<td>taste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>write</td>
<td>change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The End