

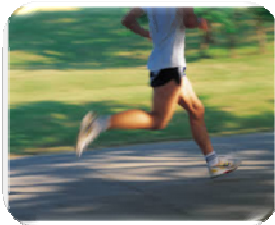
Answers

Verbs: stative or continuous?

Continuous verbs (actions)

Continuous verbs are actions that you can usually see happening. They are usually easy to control.

A man is running in the park.



Can you see someone “run”? → Yes

Is it easy to control? → Yes

“Run” is an action that you can control. It’s an example of a continuous verb.

Stative verbs (states)

Stative verbs are states (not actions) that you can’t usually see happening. They are usually difficult to control.

This man loves his girlfriend.



Can you see someone “love”? → No

Is it easy to control? → No

“Love” is a state that you can’t control. It’s an example of a stative verb.

1. Decide if the 4 verbs below (underlined in the sentences) are *stative* or *continuous*.
(see answers below)
2. What tense is used with *continuous verbs*? What tense is used with *stative verbs*?
 - a. *Continuous verbs* → *present continuous*
 - b. *Stative verbs* → *present simple*

She understands physics.

to understand = stative verb



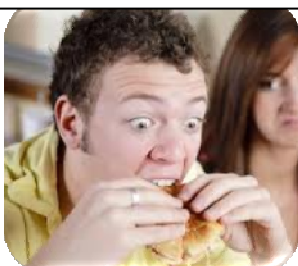
They are singing a song.

to sing = continuous verb



He is eating a burger.

to eat = continuous verb



He has an iPhone.

to have = stative verb



Answers

More stative / continuous verbs

- Remember that when you are talking about the present moment:
 - *Continuous verbs* are usually actions you can see and/or are easy to control.
 - *Stative verbs* are usually states you can't see and/or are not easy to control.

Run	continuous	Mean	stative
Eat	continuous	Smile	continuous
Sing	continuous	Laugh	continuous
Understand	stative	Speak	continuous
Love	stative	Sit	continuous
Like	stative	Hate	stative
Stand	continuous	Know	stative
Walk	continuous	Sleep	continuous
Fall	continuous	Drive	continuous
Hold	continuous	Look like	stative
Lift	continuous	Wear	continuous
Care	stative	Cry	continuous
Want	stative	Jump	continuous
Write	continuous	Agree	stative
Talk	continuous	Believe	stative
Rain	continuous	Watch	continuous
Promise	stative	See	stative
Prefer	stative	Hear	stative
Remember	stative	Listen*	Continuous

* Although the verb "listen" is not really an action that you can see happening, it can be controlled by paying attention to something you can hear, for example someone's voice.

Answers

Verbs that can be stative or continuous

Decide if each sentence matches definition **A** or definition **B**.

- A)** Think (an action your brain does) = to solve a problem in your head.
- B)** Think (a state) = to have an opinion.

- 1) I've just read the question and now I'm thinking of the answer. A
- 2) I think that Thailand is a beautiful country. B

- A)** Look (an action) = to use your eyes to see something.
- B)** Look (a state) = to appear a specific way to people.

- 3) I don't think he is enjoying himself. He looks bored. B
- 4) She likes that man. She is looking at him. A

- A)** Smell (an action) = to sense something using your nose.
- B)** Smell (a state) = to have a specific smell.

- 5) The man over there is smelling some flowers. Maybe he'll give them to his wife. A
- 6) These roses smell great. B

- A)** Be (an action) = to act a specific way for a short time.
- B)** Be (a state) = to exist a specific way all the time.

- 7) He is stupid. B
- 8) He is being stupid. A

- A)** Have (an action) = to do an activity or experience something for a short time e.g. a party.
- B)** Have (a state) = to own or possess something.

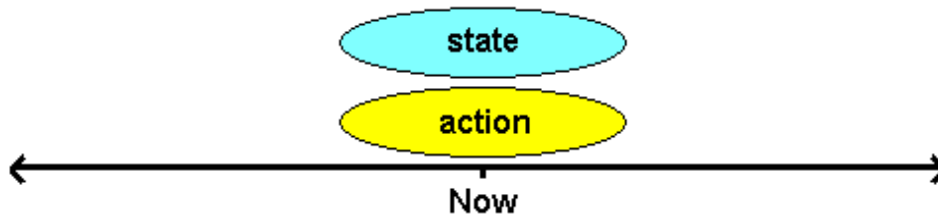
- 9) I'm having dinner. A
- 10) I have a blue car. B

- A)** Taste (an action) = to put a little bit of food in your mouth to know its flavour.
- B)** Taste (a state) = to have a specific flavour.

- 11) This food tastes great! B
- 12) The chef over there is tasting his food to be sure it's delicious. A

Answers

Talking about now



1. James likes pizza. That's why he's eating it now with a smile on his face.
2. Jane is walking too slowly. She's going to be late for work.
3. Sam can't talk on the phone right now because he is driving.
4. The new movie at the cinema looks good. Perhaps we should watch it.
5. That man is looking at that picture. I wonder if he likes it.
6. I like Harry Potter. I think it's pretty good.
7. We have a problem but don't worry I am thinking of a solution.
8. In my opinion, ice-cream tastes delicious. That's why I eat it every day.
9. The joke you just told me wasn't funny. That is why I am not laughing.
10. I don't understand science. It's too difficult.
11. I'm single. I don't have a girlfriend.
12. You can't use this elevator at the moment. It isn't working.
13. I'm surprised that she is a model. She doesn't look like one.
14. I'm awake now. I am not sleeping.