

STATE VERBS

NO CONTINUOUS FORMS

CASES & EXAMPLES

likes and dislikes
feelings and emotions

like, love, dislike, hate,
enjoy, prefer, adore, desire,
despise, detest, envy,
need, pity, prefer, trust,
want, wish, hope

I love chocolate ice cream.

senses

we often use **can** or
could with these verbs
when we refer to what
we see, hear, etc. at the
moment of speaking

see, hear, smell, taste, feel,
look, sound, observe,
notice

**Jim must be at home. I can
see his car parked outside.**

perception and
mental activity

know, believe, mind, seem,
understand, realise, doubt,
remember, forget, recognise,
think, intend, imagine, see
(=understand), suspect,
expect (=think), suppose,
feel (= think)

I expect they will be late.

possession, existence
and other categories

be, contain, belong, include,
have (=possess), own, owe,
consist of, involve, concern,
require, depend, fit, matter,
cost, mean, matter, deserve,
keep (=continue), weigh,
measure

My uncle owns a hotel.

STATE VS ACTION

NO CONTINUOUS FORMS

CONTINUOUS FORMS

I think he's lying.
(= believe)

**I am thinking about
the plan.
(= am considering)**

The food tastes
delicious. (= has a
delicious flavour)

**He is tasting the food.
(= is testing the
flavour)**

I can see some people.
(perceive with my
eyes)

**I'm seeing my doctor
tomorrow.
(= am meeting)**

I see what you mean.
(= understand)

It looks as if they've
finished the job. (=
appears)

**Mike is looking out of
the window. (= is
directing his eyes)**

This perfume smells
nice.
(= has a nice smell)

**He is smelling the
milk.
(= is sniffing)**

The baby's hair feels
like silk.
(= has the texture of)

**She is feeling the
baby's forehead.
(= is touching)**

Bob has a Porsche.
(= possesses)

**He's having a shower
at the moment.
(= is taking a shower)**

The chicken weighs 2 kilos.
(= has a weight of)

The butcher is weighing the meat.
(= is measuring how heavy it is)

This dress fits you perfectly.
(= it is the right size)

We are fitting new locks.
(= are putting in)

He appears to be nervous. (= seems)

He is appearing in a new play.
(= is taking part)

He is a rude person.
(= character - permanent state)

He is being rude.
(= behaviour - temporary situation. usually with adjectives such as careful, silly, (im)polite, lazy, etc.)

NOTE:

The verb **enjoy** can be used in continuous tenses to express specific preference.
e.g. I **am enjoying** this party a lot. (specific preference)
I **enjoy** going to parties. (I enjoy parties in general.)

NOTE:

The verbs **look** (when we refer to a person's appearance), **feel** (= experience a particular emotion), **hurt** and **ache** can be used in either the continuous or simple tenses with no difference in meaning.

e.g. You **look/are looking** great today.