

Active and stative verbs

GRAMMAR

LEVEL
Intermediate

NUMBER
B1_1012G_EN

LANGUAGE
English





Goals

- Learn the difference between active and stative verbs
- Practise using the most important active and stative verbs
- Review the present simple and continuous



I **need** a new mobile phone but I **hate** spending a lot of money on technology. I **want** to find one that is not too expensive. I'm **checking** online to see if there are any good deals at the moment.





Preview and warm-up

In this class we will look at the difference between **active** and **stative verbs**. What do you already know about active and stative verbs?



Don't worry if you don't know anything about **active** and **stative** verbs yet, you are going to learn all about them in this class!



Active and stative verbs

- What are **active** and **stative** verbs?
- What is the difference between them?

- **Active verbs** describe **actions**; things we can do or things that happen.
- **Stative verbs** describe a **state**. We use stative verbs when we **describe** something that is **not likely** to **change**.





Active and stative verbs



- **Active verbs** can be used in both the **present simple** and the **present continuous** forms.
- **Stative verbs** are **not** normally used in **present continuous** forms.



He is **playing** tennis but I **stayed** at home because I **hate** tennis.



Active and stative verbs: some examples

- Which **active** and **stative** verbs do you already know?
- Remember, **stative verbs** are used to describe **emotions, senses** and **states**.
- We use **active verbs** for **activities, actions** and **physical** conditions.

| Active verbs | Stative verbs |
|--------------|---------------|
| dance | hear |
| watch | like |
| arrive | love |
| travel | need |
| sing | want |



Stative verbs: a reminder

- As mentioned on the previous slide, we do not normally use stative verbs in the continuous form. Below are some examples of how we should and should not use these verbs.
- **Remember:** stative verbs refer to **states** rather than **actions**.

| Correct | Incorrect |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| I can't hear it! | I am not hearing it! |
| I like this. | I am liking this. |
| I know what you mean. | I am knowing what you mean. |
| I want a pet. | I am wanting a pet. |
| I need that. | I am needing that. |



Complete the sentences

**Complete the sentences using the right active or stative verb.
Make sure you use the right tense, either present simple or
present continuous!**

1. Do you _____ Japanese food?

2. I'm _____ to China next year.

3. Ssh, we're _____ a film on the television.

4. I _____ him very much.

5. Her train _____ at 5 o'clock.

6. Do you _____ anything from the supermarket?

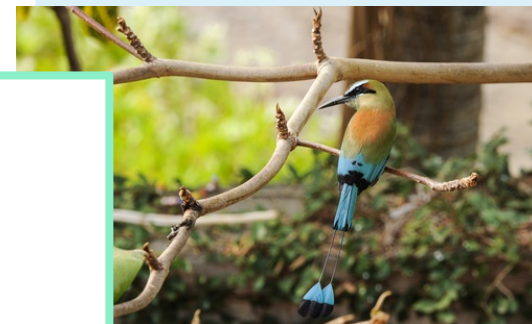
7. I'm _____ in the concert tonight.

8. I _____ the birds outside the window.



Fill in the gaps

I _____ this time of year! Summer is the best. You can _____ the birds singing and you can _____ people outside having fun in the sun. I like winter too but I often _____ in winter. I _____ to get away from the cold weather and dark days.



**Fill in the gaps using the active and stative verbs:
hear, love, travel, watch, need**



Stative verbs

Look at the sentences below. Can you correct the stative verb?

I am **knowing** what to do.

You are **needing** to catch your bus.

I am **seeing** what you mean.

You are **impressing** me.



Practise using active and stative verbs

Look at the verbs on the cards below. Are they active or stative? Make a sentence with each word.



dance

arrive

like

watch

love

travel

need

sing

want



Some new active verbs

- Now here are some **active verbs** that might be new to you.
- Do you already know any of these verbs?

- **study**

- **learn**

- **call**

- **melt**

- **grow**

- She's **studying** in the library.

- He's **learning** French, he wants to live in Paris.

- I'm **calling** my mum to see if she can come today.

- Oh good, the snow is **melting**!

- I'm **growing** vegetables in my garden this year.



Some new stative verbs

- Now here are some **stative verbs** that might be new to you.
- Do you already know any of these verbs?

- **belong**
- **seem**
- **understand**
- **remember**
- **suppose**
- **wish**

- That book **belongs** to my brother.
- It **seems** possible that he will win the competition.
- I **understand** his accent very well.
- I **remember** we came here last year with your mother.
- I **suppose** we could try the new Italian restaurant.
- I **wish** I could visit Australia but I'm scared of flying.



Present simple or present continuous

- Generally, only **active verbs** use the **present continuous**.
- What do you remember about the difference between the **present simple** and the **present continuous**?

- We use the **present simple** to talk about **facts**, things that are generally **true** and **habits**. The present simple is related to longer durations of time.

- I **watch** television every night after school.

- The **present continuous** is used to talk about something that is **true** at this **moment**.

- I am **watching** television.





Multiple choice

1. Which of these is not a stative verb?

- a. belong b. melt c. seem d. remember

2. Which of these is an active verb?

- a. grow b. suppose c. wish d. understand

3. She _____ Japanese at the moment.

- a. learn b. learns c. is learning d. is understanding

4. I _____ we saw that painting in the gallery last year.

- a. am remembering b. am seeing c. am learning d. remember



Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps in the text using these active or stative verbs:
understand, learn, seem, call, want, study, wish.

For the active verbs choose between the present continuous and the present simple tense.

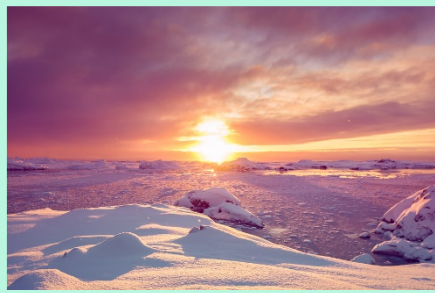
My sister _____ medicine, she
_____ to become a doctor. She
_____ to be doing very well but she has
to _____ a lot of difficult vocabulary.
She _____ our parents every night to
tell them about her day at university. She
_____ she had more time to see them
but they _____ her studies are very
important.



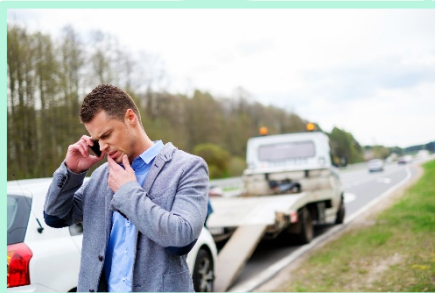


Make sentences

Can you make sentences about the pictures below?
Use all 8 of these active and stative verbs at least once:
melt, call, understand, learn, wish, remember, belong, grow



Make sentences!



Be creative!



Active or stative verbs in special cases



- There are some verbs which, in special cases, can have a stative or active meaning.



These verbs are normally associated with the **senses**.
Examples of these verbs include: have, smell, look, taste, hear



Active or stative verbs in special cases



- Below are some examples of these special verbs as both **active** and **stative** verbs.

| active | stative |
|--|---|
| They are having lunch at the moment. | Do you have any brothers or sisters? |
| We will be hearing from them later today. | Can you speak up, I can't hear you. |
| The cat is looking at the roast chicken on the table. | She looks tired. |
| The dog is smelling his food. | The cake smells great. |
| I'm tasting the cake in case it is too sweet! | I can't taste any salt in the soup. |



Choose the correct verb and form

1. Do you _____ any pets?

- a. have b. are having c. smell d. hear

2. He _____ like a film star.

- a. is looking b. hears c. looks d. is hearing

3. She has baked a cake, it _____ great.

- a. smells b. has c. is smelling d. is looking

4. I can _____ the rain on the window.

- a. taste b. smell c. understand d. hear



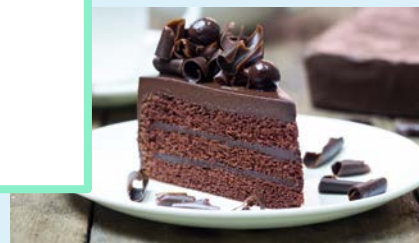
Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the following verbs:
smell, taste, have, look, hear

Can I _____ the cake? It _____
delicious! I know we are _____ lunch in
an hour but I can't resist it!

We can _____ your music from our
bedroom, it is very loud. Are you _____
a party?

That fish _____ bad, do you
_____ something else we can eat for
lunch? The cat can _____ the fish.





Practice time!

Make stative and active sentences for each of these verbs:
smell, have, taste, hear

Use the words on the cards below in your sentences too!



pizza

dog

birthday

party

breakfast

our client

soup

car

birds



Game

Stative or active?
Guess correctly
and then make a
sentence about
yourself!

Your teacher will give you a verb and you must decide if it is stative or active, then make a sentence about yourself with the verb!

play = active

I **play** football every Friday evening with my friends.

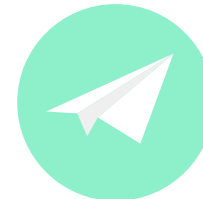


Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no

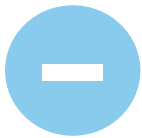
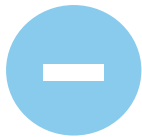




Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again





Answer key

Activity p. 9
like, travelling, watching, love, arrives, need, singing, hear

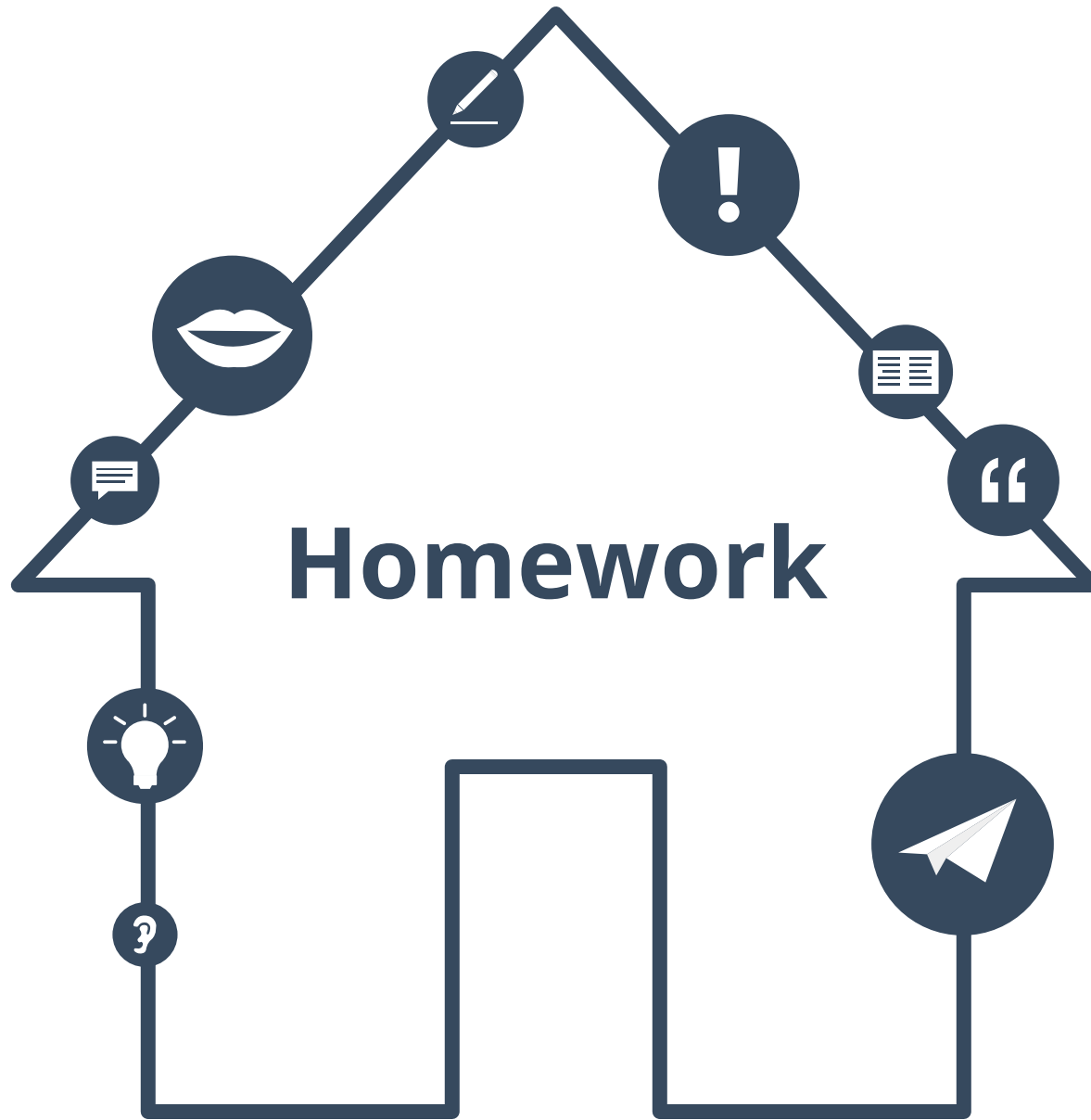
Activity p. 10
love, hear, watch, travel, need

Activity p. 16
B, A, C, D

Activity p. 17
is studying, wants, seems, learn, calls, wishes, understand

Activity p. 21
A, C, A, D

Activity p. 22
taste, looks, having, hear, having, smells, have, have





Homework writing activity

Can you make 5 sentences with a stative verb and 5 with an active verb? Which sentences could you also put in the present continuous form?

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Stative or active?

Below you have two lists. Try to come up with at least 6 new verbs for each list and use these in sentences.

stative

active



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