

Dynamic and Stative Verbs

The progressive forms occur only with **dynamic verbs**, that is, with verbs that show qualities capable of change as opposed to stative verbs, which show qualities not capable of change. For instance, we do not say, "He is being tall" or "He is resembling his mother" or "I am wanting spaghetti for dinner" or "It is belonging to me." (We would say, instead: "He is tall," "He resembles his mother," "I want spaghetti," and "It belongs to me.")

Here are some of the most common stative verbs.

Verbs of Cognition			
I detest tomatoes, <i>but not</i> I am detesting tomatoes. I prefer coffee, <i>but not</i> I am preferring coffee.			
abhor	guess	mind	satisfy
adore	hate	perceive	see
astonish	hear	please	smell
believe	imagine	prefer	suppose
desire	impress	presuppose	taste
detest	intend	realize	think
dislike	know	recall	understand
doubt	like	recognize	want
feel	love	regard	wish
forgive	mean	remember	

Relational Verbs			
I am tall, <i>but not</i> I am being tall. I own a sports car, <i>but not</i> I am owning a sports car.			
be*	depend on	involve	possess
belong to	deserve	lack	require
concern	equal	matter	require
consist of	fit	need	resemble
contain	have	owe	seem
cost	include	own	sound