

6 Chapter Six

Non-continuous verbs (stative verbs)

Some English verbs aren't used in continuous tenses (like present continuous, or future continuous tense). These verbs express a **state** (existing condition) rather than an action. So these verbs are called non-continuous or state or stative verbs also. They usually relate to thoughts, emotions, relationships, senses, states of being, and measurements. A verb which isn't non-continuous is called a dynamic verb, and is usually an action.

Here is a list of such verbs.

to prefer	to believe	to like
to agree	to remember	to love
to mind	to recognize	to hate
to own	to appear	to want
to sound	to taste	to need
to hear	to astonish	to know
to disagree	to forget	to realize
to satisfy	to promise	to suppose
to doubt	to possess	to mean
to wish	to imagine	to understand
to dislike	to be	to belong
to deserve	to involve	to fit

non-continuous verbs

Non-continuous verbs		
to lack	to have <i>(when it means "to possess")</i>	to contain
to owe	to seem	to consist
to depend	to deny	to weigh (=have weight)
to notice	to impress	to include
to see	to surprise	to measure (=have length)
to look (=seem)	to feel (have an opinion)	to think (=have an opinion)
to smell	to concern	to fear
to assume	to consider	to please
to cost	to matter	To need

Generally these non-continuous verbs are not used in continuous tense.

You can say–

- “I love you” but not “I am loving you”
- “I know him“ but not “I am knowing you”
- “I am hearing” instead you should tell “I am listening”
- “It depends on the situation” but not “It is depending on the situation”

Exceptions-There are many verbs that don't take the continuous forms in one meaning but DO take the continuous forms in other meanings. Here are some of the most important:

non-continuous verbs

Word	Verb type	Meaning
Feel	Non cont.	feel =have an opinion He feels he should get a second chance.
	Continuous	feel = 'feel physically' I'm feeling awful this afternoon.
See	Non cont.	see = 'understand' e.g.- I see what you mean.
	Continuous	see = 'visit' e.g.- She's seeing a doctor this morning.
Think	Non cont.	think = 'have an opinion' I think we should leave immediately.
	Continuous	think = 'use the brain', to consider He's thinking hard about the problem.
Appear	Non cont.	appear = 'look like' e.g. That appears to be stale.
	Continuous	appear = 'be on stage / perform' Jack is performing at the Paramount tonight.
Look	Non cont.	look = 'seem' e.g.- It looks impossible!
	Continuous	look = 'stare at' e.g. I'm looking at that strange man.
Taste	Non cont.	taste = 'have a taste' e.g. That tastes yummy!
	Continuous	= 'use the mouth' e.g.-The cook is tasting the sauce!
Have	Non cont.	Have= possession e.g. She has three dogs and a cat.
	Continuous	Have=eat e.g. She's having supper.
Be	Non cont.	“be” is usually a stative verb, but when used in the continuous it means 'behaving' or 'acting' ☞ you are stupid = it's part of your personality
	Continuous	You are <u>being</u> stupid = only now, not usually.