

List of stative verbs with examples

Some verbs can be stative and active.
They are in green.

1. agree (also disagree)

I really *agree* with you on everything you've just said.

My husband and I pretty much *agree* on everything.

~~I am really agreeing with you.~~

Remember! Don't use stative verbs in a continuous tense!

2. be

I *am* Belgian.

This *is* the most beautiful photo of your baby I've ever seen!

~~This is being the most beautiful...~~

be active - only this moment
Why are you *being* so rude?

3. believe

I *believe* in ghosts. Do you?

I *believe* John is telling the truth.

4. belong

This grand mansion once *belonged* to the Duke of York. It is now a museum.

Excuse me, does this wallet *belong* to any of you? I found it in the corridor.

5. consist

This sailing course *consists* of two weeks intensive training plus a written nautical assessment.

The IELTS exam *consists* of a listening, reading, writing and speaking part.

6. contain

Excuse me, does the 'chicken tikka masala' curry *contain* peanuts? I'm allergic.

This room here *contains* all of the police evidence found at crime scenes.

7. depend

Of course we can play football later son. But it really *depends* on the weather.

I might go on holiday this year. It really *depends* on how much money I have.

8. deserve

This actress really *deserves* to win an Oscar.

Take a break Nuria. You really *deserve* to have a few days off.

9. dislike

What do you *dislike* about this design? I think it looks pretty good.

I know you love it, but I really *dislike* rap music.

10. doubt

I *doubt* Cara is really sick. I'm sure she's just having a day off.

I wish I didn't *doubt* myself so much.

11. fit

My clothes are finally starting to *fit* again after having my daughter in May.

Can you believe it? My sofa won't *fit* in my new flat. I have to buy a new one!

12. hate

I absolutely *hate* it when people lick their fingers when eating.

Why do you *hate* going shopping so much?

13. have

I *have* an older sister name Lydia.

Excuse me Paul, do you *have* a minute?

have active - an experience

Everybody is *having* a wonderful time on this ski trip.

14. involve

Becoming a doctor *involves* years of hard work and study.

Of course you can come to my dance class. But you know it *involves* dancing with other people right?

15. know

Wow, Georgina *knows* all of the world capitals!

Do you *know* Frederick from the IT department?

16. lack

This office really *lacks* some colour. I think we should seriously invest in some artwork.

You have a beautiful voice Risa, but you *lack* that star quality we are looking for.

17. like

You won't believe this, but I *like* drinking coffee with maple syrup in it.

What? Of course I *like* Judith. Who told you I didn't?

18. look + adjective

You *look* lovely today. Is that a new dress?

Oscar *looks* so tired every day since his son was born.

look active – search

I'm *looking* for a new job at the moment.

look active - use your eyes

Look over there! I see a dolphin!

19. love

I *love* your new haircut!

Do you *love* me? Then show me!

20. matter

I know people say that money doesn't *matter*, but it does to me.

How Dean looks *matters* to him a lot.

21. mean

student: What does 'by heart' *mean*?

teacher: It *means* that you know something because you've memorised it.

A wink can *mean* many things. It can mean: *hello, I like you, shhh... it's a secret etc.*

22. mind

Excuse me, do you *mind* if I leave my bag here for a moment? I'll be back in a second.

I really don't *mind* the rain. In fact, I quite like it.

23. need

Oh my goodness Charlie, you really *need* a new pair of shoes.

I *need* a book to help me with my IELTS writing. Do you have any recommendations?

24. own

My uncle *owns* three Porches. Sometimes he lets me drive them!

I'm really not ready to *own* a house yet. I'll keep saving for the time being.

25. possess

The gardenia flower *possesses* such an aromatic scent, that bees and butterflies are easily attracted to them.

Mary *possesses* this air of authority about her.

26. prefer

I *prefer* brunettes to blondes.

I think most people *prefer* owning a car to taking public transport.
(Here, 'owning' is a gerund. That's why it has the 'ing'!)

27. promise

I *promise* to love you forever.

Jerry *promised* to take the kids off my hands this weekend.

28. realise

therapist: Thank you for coming to speak to me today Linda. I *realise* that this is very difficult for you.

By the time I *realised* my wallet was missing, it was too late.

29. recognise

Do you *recognise* this man Clara?

I *recognise* that necklace. Is that the one I bought for you in 2010?

30. remember

I find it really difficult to *remember* all the rules regarding prepositions.

Do you *remember* that man we met at the bus stop last week? Well, believe it or not, he's Valeria's brother!

31. see

I can't *see* very well without my glasses.
(vision)

Oh I *see*. Thank you for your explanation.
(understand)

see active - dating someone

Karl is *seeing* this lady his works with.

32. seem

Are you okay Evelynn? You *seem* a bit down.

Is it just me, or does it *seem* a bit quieter out than normal for a Monday?

33. smell

Wow Yolanda, this lasagna *smells* absolutely delicious.

The bathroom in my flat always *smells* so bad. I think maybe the drains are blocked.

34. sound

Your idea *sounds* fantastic Brian, but there just isn't the budget for something like that.

How about a nice cheese plate and wine for dinner? Does that *sound* good?

35. suppose

I *suppose* the budget reduction plan makes sense, but it just seems a bit drastic.

A: Should we leave in a minute to beat the traffic?

B: I *suppose* so. We can finish up this work tomorrow.

36. taste

This coffee *tastes* a bit like caramel. I really like it.

I *tasted* the chicken wings, but they are way too spicy for me.

37. think

I don't *think* children spend too much time on their phones, I think parents do!
(opinion)

Who do you *think* will win the next election? (opinion)

think active- my thoughts now

A: What are you *thinking* about?

B: Oh, I'm just *thinking* about my doctor's appointment tomorrow.

38. understand

I don't speak Mandarin very well, but I *understand* a lot.

I *understand* Sam. You've fallen in love with someone else.

39. want

I *want* a nice pizza and a glass of wine so badly right now.

What do you really *want* in life?

40. wish

I *wish* I were taller. Then I could play basketball professionally.

If you *wish* upon a star, then all of your dreams will come true.

