

# Verbs not normally used – or with different meaning – in continuous tenses: Non-Action-Verbs

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\* *These verbs have also different meanings where continuous is possible.  
With the verb “feel” both simple and continuous are used without a difference in meaning: “How do you feel? = How are you feeling?”*

**Of course, with these special meanings you only use continuous form where it is called for according to the general rules of simple vs. continuous!**

## **1 The Verbs of the Senses: Direct Perception**

hear, notice; smell\*, see\*, look\*, taste\*, feel\*

Normal use: Did you notice? / Can you hear me? / He couldn't smell anything. / I can't see anything at all. / It looks good, doesn't it? / mmh, that tastes good.

*Special uses: Why are you smelling the milk? Has it gone off? / I am just seeing Tom out, I'll be right back. / Are you seeing Susan tonight? / Hey, you are looking good today! / What are you looking at? / I am looking for a new flat. / Sorry, I can't talk, I am tasting this wonderful chocolate cream. / The doctor is feeling his pulse.*

## **2 The Verbs of Feeling and Emotion**

like, hate, want, wish, care for, appreciate, mind, adore, dislike, respect, fear, detest, admire\*, love\*

Normal Use: He greatly admires your work. / She loves her students.

*Special uses: Look how he is admiring this painting (= looking at it admiringly), / Don't disturb them, they are loving each other (=making love).*

## **3 The Verbs of Mental Activity**

believe, expect (=believe, suppose), expect\*, know, assume, presume, understand, see (=understand), suppose, mean, realize\*, recognize, recollect, remember, recall, forget, perceive, think (= offer an opinion), think\*

Normal Use: I expect this will be correct. / Do you realize what you are saying? / I think this is wrong.

*Special Uses: She is expecting a baby. / I am expecting him any minute now. / I am only just realizing what my decision means for our future. / Don't talk, I am thinking. / Are you thinking of going anywhere special in December? / I am thinking of you.*

#### **4    The Verbs of Possession And Prize**

belong to, owe, own, possess, have (got), cost

Normal use: Who does this house belong to? / How much do I owe you? / He has got three cats at the moment. / How much does it cost? etc.

#### **5    Auxiliaries**

will, can, shall, may, must, need, have\*, be\*

Normal use: I need more money. / This house needs repairing. / They have a lot of money. / She is so nice.

*Special Uses: They are having a party tonight. / What are you having (=eating)? / They were having a shower when I rang at the door. / She is being so nice today, what's wrong with her? Don't heed him, he is being stupid/stubborn again! Passive: The school building is being done up/repared at the moment. / A serious problem was being discussed when I came into the room.*



*Got it, man?!*