



Stative Verbs

Stative verbs often have a special way of being used in English. Although this list isn't all the stative verbs, it contains the most commonly used stative verbs. A stative verb is normally related to possession, emotion, sense or mental state. Stative verbs are not used in continuous forms but be aware that they can be used in the past participle as an adjective or noun. The verbs highlighted green can be used as active and stative verbs.

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
Adore	To love somebody very strongly	<i>I had adored by ex-husband until we divorced.</i>
Agree	To have the same opinion as somebody	<i>I thought she had already agreed with you?</i>
Appear	To suddenly become visible	<i>A light had suddenly appeared and it lit up my room.</i>
Appreciate	To understand and be grateful for something	<i>I wish I had appreciated your work earlier in life.</i>
Astonish	To be unexpected and surprising in a positive way	<i>She had astonished me long before her audition.</i>
Be	To exist, to happen or to have characteristics of something	<i>Had she always been so beautiful?</i>
Believe	To think that something is true	<i>I had believed you until you said that!</i>
Belong	To have an owner	<i>That watch had belonged to your grandfather.</i>
Care	To pay attention to somebody because you love them	<i>I had always cared for him.</i>

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
Concern	To have an effect on something/somebody	<i>These results had concerned me a bit, but now I'm very worried.</i>
Consist	To have the contents of	<i>The British Empire had consisted of many countries until war broke out.</i>
Contain	To have something inside	<i>I had contained my possessions in this box until it broke.</i>
Cost	To have the price or value	<i>It had cost me so much money.</i>
Deny	To refuse	<i>I'm sorry, I had denied your application before I knew about your situation.</i>
	To say that something isn't true	<i>She had denied ever dating you.</i>
Depend	To need the help of somebody or something	<i>I had never depended on my parents until I became unemployed.</i>
Deserve	To have the right to something because you've worked hard for it	<i>I had deserved that prize until my scandal.</i>
Desire	To want very strongly	<i>He had desired me until he became interested in somebody else.</i>
Despise	To hate very strongly	<i>I had despised him, but then he suddenly changed.</i>
Detest	To hate very strongly	<i>I had detested waking up earlier until I found the joy of early morning runs.</i>
Disagree	To have a different opinion to somebody	<i>She had disagreed with me until she saw my results.</i>
Dislike	To not like something. To have a negative feeling towards something.	<i>I had disliked going to the supermarket but then they opened a free coffee shop.</i>
Doubt	To be unsure about something	<i>I'm sorry I had doubted you.</i>
Enjoy	To like something a lot and to have a fun experience	<i>We had enjoyed a week away but returned to work on Monday.</i>

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
Equal	To have the same quantity	<i>Her salary had equaled mine until she got promoted.</i>
Feel	To have an emotion about something	<i>I had felt so sad.</i>
	To sense when you touch something	<i>This jumper had always felt soft anyway.</i>
Fit	To have the right size	<i>This dress had fitted me until I got pregnant.</i>
Forget	To lose the memory of something that happened	<i>I had forgotten his name by the time we said goodbye.</i>
Hate	To have a strong negative feeling towards something	<i>I had hated my sister growing up, but now we get on.</i>
Have	Possession of something	<i>She had had a baby before she was 20.</i>
Hear	The sense with the ears. To understand a sound	<i>Had you heard this song before?</i>
Imagine	To use the brain to create something that isn't true	<i>I had never imagined her with blonde hair.</i>
Impress	To have a very strong positive effect on somebody	<i>Her first audition had impressed me compared to this one.</i>
Include	To contain within something	<i>I had included all the details in the email.</i>
Involve	To add something	<i>I had only involved the necessary people.</i>
Know	To understand and have information about something	<i>We had known each other for around 10 years.</i>
Lack	To be missing something	<i>Our group had always lacked innovation.</i>
Like	To have a positive feeling towards something	<i>I had really liked spending time with you this month.</i>

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
Loathe	To have a very strong negative feeling towards something	<i>I had loathed washing the dog until I got a new washroom installed.</i>
Long	To really want something because you miss it and haven't had it in a long time	<i>I'd longed to see my daughter until we had a huge fight.</i>
Look	To seem/to appear	<i>It had looked pretty bad for a while.</i>
Love	To have a strong positive emotion towards something or somebody	<i>We had loved having them round until they damaged everything.</i>
Matter	To be important	<i>Your intelligence had never mattered to us before now.</i>
Mean	To try to express	<i>I'd meant to say that it was good.</i>
Measure	To find the size, weight, height or volume of something using a measuring tool	<i>Had you measured the space for the TV before?</i>
Mind	To have a problem or be unhappy doing something	<i>I hadn't minded having you in the house.</i>
Need	To strongly want something and be unable to continue an activity without this thing	<i>We'd needed flour so she went to the shops to buy some.</i>
Owe	To give something to somebody because they gave you something in the past	<i>She had owed me \$300 but then paid me some of this back.</i>
Own	To be in possession of something	<i>I had owned a big blue car and then I sold it.</i>
Please	To make somebody happy about something	<i>Her good school grades had pleased me until I found out she was lying.</i>
Possess	To own. To be the owner of an object.	<i>He had possessed this watch for many years.</i>
Prefer	To have a stronger positive feeling about one thing than another	<i>I had always preferred watching romantic comedies to horror films.</i>

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
Promise	To say to somebody that you will do something in the future. You must do this.	<i>I'm sorry but I hadn't promised you that.</i>
Realise	To make something happen	<i>They had never realised their ambitions.</i>
	To understand something completely	<i>I'd always realised how this machine worked.</i>
Recognise	To remember something because you have seen it/done it in the past	<i>I think she had recognised me!</i>
Remember	To have a memory of something that you saw/did in the past	<i>I had just remembered the name of the restaurant.</i>
Resemble	To have something similar	<i>Until you were 18, you had always resembled your father.</i>
Satisfy	To make somebody very happy	<i>Your project had satisfied me for a while, but now you need to change it.</i>
See	The sense with the eyes. To understand a sight.	<i>I'd never seen a person walking 10 dogs at the same time!</i>
Seem	To appear. To analyse the situation and guess what is going to happen.	<i>He had always seemed nice, in my opinion.</i>
Sense	To have a feeling about something	<i>I had sensed that you were a little tense.</i>
Smell	The sense with the nose. To understand an odour.	<i>I'd never smelled something so lovely.</i>
Sound	To appear. To analyse the situation and guess what is going to happen.	<i>That party had sounded fun until I heard the stories.</i>
Suppose	To estimate that something has happened because of facts	<i>I'd supposed he was the suspect until they found the real criminal.</i>
Surprise	To suddenly do something that nobody expected	<i>We had never surprised her until her 40th birthday.</i>
Suspect	To estimate that somebody has done something bad.	<i>We had suspected it all along.</i>

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
Taste	The sense with the tongue. To understand a flavour.	<i>Had you tasted the chocolate in this ice-cream before?</i>
Think	To use the brain	<i>I'd thought about it, but still didn't change my mind.</i>
Touch	The sense with the hands. To understand a feeling.	<i>I'd never touched that button.</i>
Understand	To have a comprehension of something completely	<i>They'd never understood our relationship.</i>
Value	To appreciate. To understand how important something is.	<i>We had valued you too much.</i>
Want	To have a desire for something	<i>Had you ever wanted to visit Italy?</i>
Weigh	To have a weight, measured using a set of scales	<i>I'd weighed 60kg until I got married.</i>
Wish	To have a desire for something that is difficult, even impossible	<i>We had wished for this holiday for a long time. It's a dream come true.</i>