



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 present 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 adored my husband.</i>
Agree	To have the same opinion as somebody	<i>She agreed with me.</i>
Appear	To suddenly become visible	<i>A light appeared through my curtains every morning.</i>
Appreciate	To understand and be grateful for something	<i>I appreciated all your effort on this project.</i>
Astonish	To be unexpected and surprising in a positive way	<i>His dancing skills astonished me.</i>
Be	To exist, to happen or to have characteristics of something	<i>She was beautiful.</i>
Believe	To think that something is true	<i>She didn't believe me. I was telling the truth!</i>
Belong	To have an owner	<i>That watch belonged to me.</i>
Care	To pay attention to somebody because you love them	<i>I cared for my children when they were sick.</i>

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
Concern	To have an effect on something/somebody	<i>That meeting concerned the bad sales forecasts last month.</i>
Consist	To have the contents of	<i>I think our team consisted of 4 people.</i>
Contain	To have something inside	<i>That box contained my possessions.</i>
Cost	To have the price or value	<i>That necklace cost £5.00.</i>
Deny	To refuse	<i>I denied your application.</i>
	To say that something isn't true	<i>She denied her relationship with him.</i>
Depend	To need the help of somebody or something	<i>I depended on my mother's money.</i>
Deserve	To have the right to something because you've worked hard for it	<i>I deserved to win this competition.</i>
Desire	To want very strongly	<i>He desired me.</i>
Despise	To hate very strongly	<i>I despised him.</i>
Detest	To hate very strongly	<i>I detested waking up early in the mornings.</i>
Disagree	To have a different opinion to somebody	<i>They always disagreed with me.</i>
Dislike	To not like something. To have a negative feeling towards something.	<i>I disliked going to the supermarket.</i>
Doubt	To be unsure about something	<i>I doubted we would go to the beach today.</i>
Enjoy	To like something a lot and to have a fun experience	<i>We enjoyed visiting my grandmother on Sunday afternoons.</i>
Equal	To have the same quantity	<i>Last week, her score equalled mine.</i>

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
Feel	To have an emotion about something	<i>I felt sad yesterday.</i>
	To sense when you touch something	<i>That jumper felt soft.</i>
Fit	To have the right size	<i>That dress fitted her perfectly!</i>
Forget	To lose the memory of something that happened	<i>I forgot her name.</i>
Hate	To have a strong negative feeling towards something	<i>I hated my sister when I was younger.</i>
Have	Possession of something	<i>He had 4 siblings.</i>
Hear	The sense with the ears. To understand a sound.	<i>I heard some music!</i>
Imagine	To use the brain to create something that isn't true	<i>She imagined her best friend, but it's not real.</i>
Impress	To have a very strong positive effect on somebody	<i>Their singing impressed me a lot.</i>
Include	To contain within something	<i>That email included all their personal details.</i>
Involve	To add something	<i>I only involved the necessary people in the problem.</i>
Know	To understand and have information about something	<i>She didn't know who our president was?</i>
Lack	To be missing something	<i>Our group lacked innovation.</i>
Like	To have a positive feeling towards something	<i>I really liked our new house.</i>
Loathe	To have a very strong negative feeling towards something	<i>I loathed washing the dog. She was always muddy and I got dirty!</i>
Long	To really want something because you miss it and haven't had it in a long time	<i>I longed to see my children.</i>

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
Look	To seem/to appear	<i>It looked like we needed to take her to the vets.</i>
Love	To have a strong positive emotion towards something or somebody	<i>My partner loved me.</i>
Matter	To be important	<i>It didn't matter!</i>
Mean	To try to express	<i>What did that phrase mean?</i>
Measure	To find the size, weight, height or volume of something using a measuring tool	<i>We measured the space for the TV.</i>
Mind	To have a problem or be unhappy doing something	<i>He minded looking after my dogs.</i>
Need	To strongly want something and be unable to continue an activity without this thing	<i>We needed some flour to bake the cake.</i>
Owe	To give something to somebody because they gave you something in the past	<i>She owed me \$300!</i>
Own	To be in possession of something	<i>I owned a big blue car.</i>
Please	To make somebody happy about something	<i>Her good school grades pleased me.</i>
Possess	To own. To be the owner of an object.	<i>He possessed a watch.</i>
Prefer	To have a stronger positive feeling about one thing compared to another	<i>I preferred watching romantic comedies to watching horror films.</i>
Promise	To say to somebody that you will do something in the future. You must do this.	<i>I promised to take you to the shops later.</i>

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
Realise	To make something happen	<i>They realised their life-long ambitions.</i>
	To understand something completely	<i>Did you realise that they stole your handbag?</i>
Recognise	To remember something because you have seen it/done it in the past	<i>I recognised this place. I think we came here when I was a child.</i>
Remember	To have a memory of something that you saw/did in the past	<i>I didn't remember her name!</i>
Resemble	To have something similar	<i>You resembled your mother.</i>
Satisfy	To make somebody very happy	<i>He did all the household chores yesterday.</i>
See	The sense with the eyes. To understand a sight.	<i>I saw four people walking their dogs.</i>
Seem	To appear. To analyse the situation and guess what is going to happen.	<i>He seemed to be walking towards us.</i>
Sense	To have a feeling about something	<i>I sensed that you were tense and stressed.</i>
Smell	The sense with the nose. To understand an odour.	<i>Did you smell that?</i>
Sound	To appear. To analyse the situation and guess what is going to happen.	<i>That party sounded fun.</i>
Suppose	To estimate that something has happened because of facts	<i>He supposed you lost your phone.</i>
Surprise	To suddenly do something that nobody expected	<i>We surprised him on his birthday.</i>
Suspect	To estimate that somebody has done something bad. You believe your estimation is true.	<i>I suspected he committed the crime.</i>

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
Taste	The sense with the tongue. To understand a flavour.	<i>Did you taste the chocolate in this ice-cream?</i>
Think	To use the brain	<i>I thought about going to the cinema.</i>
Touch	The sense with the hands. To understand a feeling.	<i>I can't believe he touched that antique!</i>
Understand	To have a comprehension of something completely	<i>I didn't understand what a stative verb was.</i>
Value	To appreciate. To understand how important something is.	<i>We valued your help a lot.</i>
Want	To have a desire for something	<i>Did you want to visit Italy this summer?</i>
Weigh	To have a weight, measured using a set of scales	<i>That suitcase weighed 23kg.</i>
Wish	To have a desire for something that is difficult, even impossible	<i>We wished we could fly.</i>