



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 have adored my husband for many years.</i>
Agree	To have the same opinion as somebody	<i>She has never agreed with me before.</i>
Appear	To suddenly become visible	<i>A light has suddenly appeared in my room.</i>
Appreciate	To understand and be grateful for something	<i>I have always appreciated your efforts on this project.</i>
Astonish	To be unexpected and surprising in a positive way	<i>His skills have really astonished me.</i>
Be	To exist, to happen or to have characteristics of something	<i>Has she always been so beautiful?</i>
Believe	To think that something is true	<i>I have never believed that!</i>
Belong	To have an owner	<i>That watch has never belonged to you!</i>
Care	To pay attention to somebody because you love them	<i>I have cared for my children since the day they were born.</i>

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
Concern	To have an effect on something/somebody	<i>These results have always concerned you.</i>
Consist	To have the contents of	<i>The UK has always consisted of 4 individual countries.</i>
Contain	To have something inside	<i>I have contained my possessions in this box for many years.</i>
Cost	To have the price or value	<i>It has cost me a lot! £ 500.</i>
Deny	To refuse	<i>I'm sorry, I have denied your application.</i>
	To say that something isn't true	<i>She has denied ever dating you.</i>
Depend	To need the help of somebody or something	<i>I have never depended on my parents for money.</i>
Deserve	To have the right to something because you've worked hard for it	<i>I have deserved this prize for a long time.</i>
Desire	To want very strongly	<i>He has desired me since the day we met.</i>
Despise	To hate very strongly	<i>I have always despised that man.</i>
Detest	To hate very strongly	<i>I'm happy to get a sleep-in now. I've detested waking up so early recently.</i>
Disagree	To have a different opinion to somebody	<i>They have always disagreed with me.</i>
Dislike	To not like something. To have a negative feeling towards something.	<i>I have always disliked going to the supermarket.</i>
Doubt	To be unsure about something	<i>Since this morning, I have doubted we would go to the beach today.</i>
Enjoy	To like something a lot and to have a fun experience	<i>We have enjoyed visiting my grandmother this week.</i>

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
Equal	To have the same quantity	<i>Two plus two has always equaled four.</i>
Feel	To have an emotion about something	<i>I have felt sad recently.</i>
	To sense when you touch something	<i>This jumper has always felt soft.</i>
Fit	To have the right size	<i>This dress has fitted me for many years.</i>
Forget	To lose the memory of something that happened	<i>I'm sorry, I've forgotten your name!</i>
Hate	To have a strong negative feeling towards something	<i>I have never hated my sister, but we argue a lot.</i>
Have	Possession of something	<i>I've recently had a child.</i>
Hear	The sense with the ears. To understand a sound	<i>Have you heard this new song?</i>
Imagine	To use the brain to create something that isn't true	<i>I have never imagined her with blonde hair.</i>
Impress	To have a very strong positive effect on somebody	<i>Her audition has really impressed me.</i>
Include	To contain within something	<i>I've included all the details in the email.</i>
Involve	To add something	<i>I have only involved the necessary people.</i>
Know	To understand and have information about something	<i>We have known each other for around 10 years now.</i>
Lack	To be missing something	<i>Our group has always lacked innovation.</i>
Like	To have a positive feeling towards something	<i>I have really liked being with you this month.</i>

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
Loathe	To have a very strong negative feeling towards something	<i>I have loathed washing the dog recently. It's a lot of chaos!</i>
Long	To really want something because you miss it and haven't had it in a long time	<i>I've longed to see my daughter for many years. She lives in Australia.</i>
Look	To seem/to appear	<i>It has looked like this for a while.</i>
Love	To have a strong positive emotion towards something or somebody	<i>We have loved having you to stay with us.</i>
Matter	To be important	<i>Your intelligence has never mattered to us.</i>
Mean	To try to express	<i>I've meant what I said for a long time.</i>
Measure	To find the size, weight, height or volume of something using a measuring tool	<i>Have you measured the space for the TV?</i>
Mind	To have a problem or be unhappy doing something	<i>I haven'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've needed flour since last Tuesday, but I haven't been to the shops recently.</i>
Owe	To give something to somebody because they gave you something in the past	<i>She has owed me \$300 for almost a year!</i>
Own	To be in possession of something	<i>I have owned my big blue car since 2003.</i>
Please	To make somebody happy about something	<i>Her good school grades have pleased me recently.</i>
Possess	To own. To be the owner of an object.	<i>He has possessed this watch for many years. It's from his father.</i>
Prefer	To have a stronger positive feeling about one thing than another	<i>I have 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've never promised you that.</i>
Realise	To make something happen	<i>They have never realised their life-long ambitions.</i>
	To understand something completely	<i>I've always realised how this machine works.</i>
Recognise	To remember something because you have seen it/done it in the past	<i>I think she has recognised me!</i>
Remember	To have a memory of something that you saw/did in the past	<i>I have just remembered the name of the restaurant.</i>
Resemble	To have something similar	<i>You have always resembled your father.</i>
Satisfy	To make somebody very happy	<i>Congratulations! Your work has satisfied me.</i>
See	The sense with the eyes. To understand a sight	<i>I've 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 has always seemed nice, in my opinion.</i>
Sense	To have a feeling about something	<i>I have sensed that you're a little tense lately.</i>
Smell	The sense with the nose. To understand an odour	<i>I've never smelled something so lovely.</i>
Sound	To appear. To analyse the situation and guess what is going to happen.	<i>That party has sounded fun since the day you told me.</i>
Suppose	To estimate that something has happened because of facts	<i>I've supposed he was the suspect for a while.</i>
Surprise	To suddenly do something that nobody expected	<i>We have never surprised her, so let's try this year.</i>
Suspect	To estimate that somebody has done something bad.	<i>We have suspected that he committed the crime.</i>

Verb	Definition	Example Sentence
Taste	The sense with the tongue. To understand a flavour.	<i>Have you tasted the chocolate in this ice-cream?</i>
Think	To use the brain	<i>I've thought about what you said, and I agree.</i>
Touch	The sense with the hands. To understand a feeling.	<i>I've never touched that button.</i>
Understand	To have a comprehension of something completely	<i>They've never understood our relationship.</i>
Value	To appreciate. To understand how important something is.	<i>We have valued your help a lot. Thank you!</i>
Want	To have a desire for something	<i>Have you ever wanted to visit Italy?</i>
Weigh	To have a weight, measured using a set of scales	<i>I've weighed 60kg for a while now. It's impossible to lose weight.</i>
Wish	To have a desire for something that is difficult, even impossible	<i>We have wished for this holiday for a long time. It's a dream come true.</i>