

Some verbs (for example, know and like) are not action verbs. You cannot say 'I am knowing' or 'they are liking'; you can only say 'I know', 'they like'.

The following verbs are not normally used in continuous tenses:

LIKE hate WANT NEED prefer

KNOW mean UNDERSTAND believe remember

BELONG contain consist seem

- I want to go home (not 'I'm wanting')
- I know well the subject (not 'I'm knowing')
- I'm hungry. I want something to eat. (not 'I'm wanting')
- Do you understand what I mean? (not 'I'm understanding')

VERBS OF MIND:

believe, think, assume consider, understand, suppose, expect, agree, know, remember, forget

VERBS OF HAVING AND BEING:

belong, own, depend, contain, cost, seem, appear, need, have, consist

VERBS OF EMOTION:

like, love, detest, envy, hate, hope, prefer, wish, want

VERBS OF THE SENSES:

see, hear, taste, smell

THINK

When THINK means 'believe', 'consider', do not use the continuous:

- I think it will be late. (not 'I'm thinking I will be late')
- What do you think will happen? (not 'what are you thinking')
- I'm thinking of giving up my job. (= I am considering)

But when you're having a thought use 'ing' :

- You look serious. What are you thinking about? (=What is going on in your mind?)
- I'm thinking about you.

SEE

We normally use the present simple (not continuous) with SEE:

- Do you see that man over there? (not 'are you seeing')

But

You can use the continuous with SEE (I'm seeing) when the meaning is 'having a meeting with'

- I'm seeing the manager tomorrow morning.

1) Look at the pictures. Use the words in brackets to make sentences.

- a) Are you hungry? _____ something to eat? (you / want)
- b) Jill is interested in politics but she _____ to a political party. (not / belong)
- c) Don't put the dictionary away. I _____ it. (use)
- d) Don't put the dictionary away. I _____ it. (need)
- e) Who is that man? What _____? (he / want)
- f) Who is that man? Why _____ at us? (he / look)
- g) George says he's 80 years old but nobody _____ him. (believe)
- h) She told me her name but I _____ it now. (not / remember)
- i) I _____ of selling my car. (think)
'Would you be interested in buying it?'
- j) I _____ you should sell your car. (think)
You _____ it very often. (not / use)
- k) I used to drink a lot of coffee but these days I _____ tea. (prefer)

2) Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or present simple.

- a) She _____ (have) a bath every evening.
- b) My husband _____ (always / taste) the food while I'm cooking!
- c) He _____ (see) the doctor now.
- d) I _____ (not / think) that's a good idea.
- e) He _____ (have) a party at the weekend.
- f) This coffee _____ (not / taste) right.
- g) We _____ (see) John and Susie next weekend.
- h) What _____ (you / think) about the war in Iraq?
- i) She _____ (have) a headache.
- j) _____ (you / be) hungry? _____ (you / want) a sandwich?
- k) I _____ (think) about my ex-boyfriend.
- l) I _____ (have) fun today!
- m) I _____ (see) them now. They are over there!
- n) I _____ (see) Julie every Tuesday.