

LESSON 23

Non-Action Verbs

Some verbs are not usually used in the present continuous tense. Use these verbs in the present tense to talk about what is happening right now.

Senses	Feelings	Opinion	Possession	Mental States	Other
feel	hate	agree	belong	forget	be
hear	like	believe	have	know	cost
look	love	disagree	own	remember	need
see		feel		understand	want
smell		think			
sound					
taste					

Reminder

Use *do/does* in present tense questions. Use *am/is/are* in present continuous tense questions.

Correct

I have a headache now.
She wants to paint the house.
Do you need more paint?

Incorrect

~~I'm having a headache now.~~
~~She's wanting to paint the house.~~
~~Are you needing more paint?~~

Some verbs can be both non-action verbs and action verbs.

Non-Action

Do you have a car?
I see a parking space!
You look great.
The flowers smell good.
The cake tastes delicious.

Action

Are you having a good time?
I'm seeing my friend tomorrow.
He's looking at a picture.
I'm smelling the flowers.
She's tasting the cake.

AUDIO



A Ida is painting the bathroom. Circle the correct choice in each of the following sentences. Listen to the conversation to check your answers.

Stuart: Ida! (It smells / It is smelling) terrible in here!

What (do you do / are you doing)?

Ida: (I paint / I'm painting) the walls.

Stuart: Why (do you paint / are you painting) the walls?

Ida: Because (they look / they're looking) terrible!

Stuart: But why (are you using / do you use) pink?
(I don't like / I'm not liking) pink.

Ida: But (I love / I'm loving) pink. Can you help me?
(I need / I'm needing) more paint.

Stuart: OK. But (I want / I'm wanting) to change the color.
How about gray?

Ida: Gray! (I hate / I'm hating) gray. Listen.
(The phone rings. / The phone is ringing.) Will you get it?

Stuart: OK.



B Ida is talking to her friend Margaret on the phone. Use the verbs below in the present or present continuous tense.

cost
cry

do
have

help
like

paint
want

Margaret: Hi Ida! What are you doing?

Ida: I am repainting my bathroom right now.

Margaret: Are you helping your husband with you?

Ida: No, he isn't. He (negative) isn't painting the color pink.

Margaret: Maybe he'll change his mind. Listen. Is he going to go shopping today? There's a sale at Lynn's clothing store.

Ida: No, I'm sorry. I'm too busy. And Lynn's is very expensive. The clothes cost a lot of money. Oh, I have to go. The baby is crying.

Margaret: Is she OK?

Ida: She's OK, but she has caught a cold. I'll talk to you later.

Margaret: OK. Bye!

C Find the mistakes. Rewrite the sentences.

1. Do you painting the room now? Are you painting the room now?
2. I'm need some help. I need some help.
3. It's cost a lot of money. It costs a lot of money.
4. They having a good time now. They are having a good time now.
5. Are you have a headache now? Do you have a headache now?
6. Listen. The baby crying! Listen. The baby is crying!
7. We don't having dinner now. We aren't having dinner now.



D Chant

I don't understand her.

Listen.

I'm listening,

But I don't understand her very well.

She's speaking in English.

I know she is,

But I don't understand her very well.

She's speaking very slowly.

I know she is,

But I don't understand her very well.

She's an interesting woman.

I'm sure she is,

But I don't understand her very well.

