



Stative vs Dynamic Verbs:

Stative Verbs: Identifying Non-Action Verbs

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. She ___ a beautiful house near the beach.
a) is owning
b) owning
c) owns
d) own
2. I ___ you are right about this.
a) believe
b) am believing
c) believes
d) believing
3. The children ___ some ice cream. Can we stop at the shop?
a) are wanting
b) wants
c) wanting
d) want
4. This book ___ to the school library. We should return it.
a) belonging
b) belongs
c) is belonging
d) belong
5. Look! The kids ___ football in the park.
a) are playing
b) plays
c) play
d) playing
6. We ___ what you mean. Could you say it differently?
a) aren't understanding
b) don't understand
c) not understanding
d) doesn't understand
7. My daughter ___ science. She wants to be a doctor one day.
a) is liking
b) liking
c) likes
d) like
8. We ___ more time to finish this project.
a) needing
b) needs
c) are needing
d) need
9. Mum is in the kitchen. She ___ dinner right now.
a) cooks
b) cook
c) is cooking
d) cooking
10. A new laptop ___ a lot of money.
a) costs
b) is costing
c) costing
d) cost
11. She ___ the answer, but she doesn't want to tell us.
a) is knowing
b) knowing
c) know
d) knows



Answers

1. c) owns
2. a) believe
3. d) want
4. b) belongs
5. a) are playing
6. b) don't understand
7. c) likes
8. d) need
9. c) is cooking
10. a) costs
11. d) knows
12. b) hates
13. a) is writing
14. c) prefers
15. b) agree
16. d) doesn't matter
17. b) is running
18. a) deserve
19. c) is sleeping
20. d) owe



Explanations

1. “owns” (c)

'Own' is a stative verb expressing possession. Stative verbs describe states, not actions, so they are not used in the continuous form. We say 'She owns' (present simple), not 'She is owning'.

2. “believe” (a)

'Believe' is a stative verb expressing a mental state. Stative verbs are not used in the continuous form. 'I believe' (present simple) is correct, not 'I am believing'.

3. “want” (d)

'Want' is a stative verb expressing desire. Stative verbs are not used in continuous tenses. 'The children want' (present simple) is correct. 'Wants' is wrong because the subject 'the children' is plural.

4. “belongs” (b)

'Belong' is a stative verb expressing possession or association. We use the present simple: 'This book belongs to', not 'is belonging to'. 'Belong' is wrong because 'this book' needs third-person -s.

5. “are playing” (a)

'Play' is a dynamic (action) verb. With 'Look!' we know the action is happening right now, so we use the present continuous: 'The kids are playing'. Unlike stative verbs, dynamic verbs can be used in continuous tenses.

6. “don't understand” (b)

'Understand' is a stative verb (mental state). In negative sentences, we use the present simple with 'don't': 'We don't understand', not 'We aren't understanding'. 'Doesn't' is wrong because the subject is 'we'.

7. “likes” (c)

'Like' is a stative verb expressing emotion or preference. We use the present simple: 'She likes', not 'She is liking'. 'Like' is wrong because 'my daughter' is third person and needs -s.

8. “need” (d)

'Need' is a stative verb expressing necessity. We use the present simple: 'We need', not 'We are needing'. 'Needs' is wrong because the subject 'we' is plural.

9. “is cooking” (c)

'Cook' is a dynamic (action) verb. With 'right now', we use the present continuous: 'She is cooking'. Dynamic verbs describe actions and can freely be used in continuous tenses.

10. “costs” (a)

'Cost' is a stative verb describing a property (price). We use the present simple: 'A new laptop costs', not 'is costing'. 'Cost' is wrong because 'a new laptop' is third person singular and needs -s.

11. “knows” (d)

'Know' is a stative verb expressing a mental state. We always use the present simple: 'She knows', not 'She is knowing'. 'Know' is wrong because 'she' is third person and needs -s.

12. “hates” (b)

'Hate' is a stative verb expressing emotion. We use the present simple: 'Tom hates', not 'Tom is hating'. 'Hate' is wrong because 'Tom' is third person singular.

13. “is writing” (a)

'Write' is a dynamic (action) verb. 'Be quiet!' tells us the action is happening now, so we use the present continuous: 'She is writing'. Dynamic verbs describe actions in progress.

14. “prefers” (c)

'Prefer' is a stative verb expressing preference. We use the present simple: 'He prefers', not 'He is preferring'.
'Prefer' is wrong because 'he' is third person and needs -s.

15. “agree” (b)

'Agree' is a stative verb expressing a mental state. We use the present simple: 'I agree', not 'I am agreeing'.
'Agrees' is wrong because the subject is 'I'.

16. “doesn't matter” (d)

'Matter' is a stative verb. In negative sentences, we use 'doesn't matter' (present simple). 'Isn't mattering' is wrong because stative verbs are not used in continuous form. 'Doesn't matters' is wrong — we don't add -s after 'doesn't'.

17. “is running” (b)

'Run' is a dynamic (action) verb. 'Don't disturb' tells us the action is happening now, so we use the present continuous: 'He is running'. Dynamic verbs can be used in continuous tenses.

18. “deserve” (a)

'Deserve' is a stative verb. We use the present simple: 'You deserve', not 'You are deserving'. 'Deserves' is wrong because the subject is 'you'.

19. “is sleeping” (c)

'Sleep' is a dynamic verb. 'Shh!' tells us the action is happening right now, so we use the present continuous: 'The baby is sleeping'. Unlike stative verbs, dynamic verbs can take the continuous form.

20. “owe” (d)

'Owe' is a stative verb expressing a state (debt). We use the present simple: 'I owe', not 'I am owing'. 'Owes' is wrong because the subject is 'I'.