



Stative vs Dynamic Verbs: Stative vs Dynamic Verbs: Mixed Practice

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- This suitcase ___ over 20 kilograms. We'll have to pay extra at the airport.
a) is weighing
b) weighs
c) weighing
d) weigh
- Look — the nurse ___ the baby to check her development.
a) weighs
b) weigh
c) weighing
d) is weighing
- The swimming pool ___ 25 metres in length.
a) measures
b) is measuring
c) measuring
d) measure
- At the moment, the tailor ___ his client for a new suit.
a) measure
b) measures
c) is measuring
d) measuring
- These shoes ___ me perfectly. I'll take them.
a) are fitting
b) fitting
c) fits
d) fit
- The situation ___ to be getting worse, not better.
a) appears
b) is appearing
c) appearing
d) appear
- She ___ in a new musical at the West End theatre this month.
a) appears
b) is appearing
c) appearing
d) appear
- Don't worry about him. He ___ selfish — he'll share with everyone later.
a) is just
b) just being
c) is just being
d) just is
- When you called, I ___ about our holiday plans.
a) was thinking
b) thought
c) thinking
d) was think
- We ___ dinner when the power went out.
a) had
b) were having
c) having
d) was having
- I finally ___ why she was so upset. It all made sense.
a) was seeing
b) seeing
c) saw
d) see



Answers

1. b) weighs
2. d) is weighing
3. a) measures
4. c) is measuring
5. d) fit
6. a) appears
7. b) is appearing
8. c) is just being
9. a) was thinking
10. b) were having
11. c) saw
12. d) knew
13. b) tastes
14. a) contains
15. c) appeared
16. d) was having
17. a) think
18. c) was seeing
19. d) knows
20. b) believed



Explanations

1. “weighs” (b)

Here 'weigh' means 'has a weight of' — a stative meaning. When we state how much something weighs, we use the present simple: 'It weighs 20 kg', not 'It is weighing 20 kg'.

2. “is weighing” (d)

Here 'weigh' means 'measure the weight of something using a scale' — a dynamic meaning. When someone actively weighs something, we use the present continuous: 'The nurse is weighing the baby'.

3. “measures” (a)

Here 'measure' means 'has a measurement of' — a stative meaning. When we state the dimensions of something, we use the present simple: 'The pool measures 25 metres', not 'is measuring 25 metres'.

4. “is measuring” (c)

Here 'measure' means 'find the size of something using a tool' — a dynamic meaning. When someone actively measures, we use the present continuous: 'The tailor is measuring his client'.

5. “fit” (d)

Here 'fit' means 'be the right size or shape' — a stative meaning. We use the present simple: 'These shoes fit me'. 'Fits' is wrong because 'these shoes' is plural.

6. “appears” (a)

Here 'appear' means 'seem' — a stative meaning. When 'appear' expresses how something seems, we use the present simple: 'The situation appears to be...!', not 'is appearing to be...!'.

7. “is appearing” (b)

Here 'appear' means 'perform in / take part in a show' — a dynamic meaning. When 'appear' means perform publicly, we use the present continuous for a current activity: 'She is appearing in a musical this month'.

8. “is just being” (c)

'Be being + adjective' describes temporary, deliberate behaviour. 'He is just being selfish' means he's acting selfish right now but it's not his true character. 'He is just selfish' would mean he's permanently selfish, which contradicts 'he'll share later'.

9. “was thinking” (a)

Here 'think about' means 'actively consider' — a dynamic meaning. We use the past continuous for an action in progress when interrupted: 'I was thinking about our plans when you called'.

10. “were having” (b)

Here 'have dinner' is an activity — a dynamic meaning. We use the past continuous to show the activity was in progress when interrupted: 'We were having dinner when...' 'Was having' is wrong because the subject 'we' needs 'were'.

11. “saw” (c)

Here 'see' means 'understand / realise' — a stative meaning. Even in the past, we use the past simple for stative verbs: 'I finally saw why' (= I understood why), not 'I was seeing why'.

12. “knew” (d)

'Know' is always stative. Even for a continuous state in the past, we use the past simple: 'She knew the answer', not 'She was knowing'. Stative verbs never take the continuous form.

13. “tastes” (b)

Here 'taste' means 'has a particular flavour' — a stative meaning. When describing how something tastes, we use the present simple: 'The milk tastes strange', not 'is tasting strange'.

14. “contains” (a)

'Contain' is always a stative verb — it has no dynamic meaning. We use the present simple: 'This box contains', not 'is containing'. There is no situation where 'contain' takes the continuous form.

15. “appeared” (c)

Here 'appear' means 'seem' — a stative meaning. We use the past simple: 'She appeared to enjoy the party' (= she seemed to enjoy it), not 'She was appearing to enjoy it'.

16. “was having” (d)

Here 'have a bath' is an activity — a dynamic meaning. We use the past continuous to show it was in progress when the guests arrived: 'James was having a bath'. Past simple 'had' would suggest the bath happened after or was completed.

17. “think” (a)

Here 'think' means 'believe / have an opinion' — a stative meaning. When 'think' expresses a belief, we use the present simple: 'I think you're making a mistake'. Compare: 'I'm thinking about the problem' (dynamic = actively considering).

18. “was seeing” (c)

Here 'see' means 'have a professional appointment with' — a dynamic meaning. We use the past continuous because the appointment was in progress when we arrived: 'The vet was seeing another patient'. Past simple 'saw' would suggest a completed action, not one still in progress.

19. “knows” (d)

'Know' is always stative — it never has a dynamic meaning. We use the present simple: 'He knows several languages', never 'He is knowing'. 'Know' is wrong because 'he' is third person and needs -s.

20. “believed” (b)

'Believe' is always a stative verb. In the past, we use the past simple: 'Nobody believed him', not 'Nobody was believing him'. Stative verbs use simple tenses even when describing ongoing past states.