

Some **stative verbs** are used in progressive tenses, but with a different meaning.
Some of these are:

see

I see Jack's car in the distance.

think

I think that Ms Robbins is a good teacher.

have

They have a Siamese cat.

taste

This cake tastes delicious!

look

You look worried. Is something wrong?

see (= meet, visit)

I am seeing my dentist tomorrow.

think of/about (= process in one's mind)

She's thinking of buying a new car.

have (= drink, eat, take)

We are having breakfast now.

taste (= try food)

The chef is tasting the food.

look (= see)

What are you looking at?

NOTE:

The verbs **listen** and **watch** refer to senses but they are not stative verbs, so they can be used in progressive tenses.

We're watching a football match right now.

The verbs **see**, **hear**, **smell**, **taste** and **feel** are commonly used with **can** to indicate an action happening now.

I can hear people talking outside.

Activities

A. Choose a, b, c or d.

1. My mother _____ that's a good idea.

a. doesn't think

b. not thinks

c. don't think

d. isn't thinking

2. What time _____ at the station every morning?

a. the train arrives

b. the train is arriving

c. is the train arriving

d. does the train arrive

3. _____ a barbecue next Saturday?

a. Does Jack have

b. Jack having

c. Jack has

d. Is Jack having

4. Harry _____ to us about his problems.

a. never talking

b. is never talking

c. never talk

d. never talks

5. Frank _____ speak French.

a. don't

b. doesn't

c. isn't

d. aren't

6. We _____ with you, so don't wait for us.

a. not coming

b. don't come

c. aren't coming

d. doesn't come

7. I _____ drink milk. I can't stand it.

a. rarely

b. always

c. often

d. usually

8. The hero _____ the girl at the end of the story.

a. save

b. saves

c. is saving

d. are saving

B. Complete the dialogue with the Present Simple or the Present Progressive of the verbs in brackets.

- Alice Hey, there! How (1) _____ it _____ (go)?
- Stacey OK, I (2) _____ (suppose). How are things with you?
- Alice Uh... I'm OK.
- Stacey Is that online magazine you (3) _____ (read) any good? You (4) _____ (look) like you're really interested in it!
- Alice Actually, I (5) _____ (do) a quiz on how people (6) _____ (learn). It's pretty interesting!
- Stacey So, what does it say about you?
- Alice Let me add up my points and see how I've done... Listen to this. 'You (7) _____ (tend) to learn more when you read than when you listen.' Now, you try!
- Stacey No, thanks, I (8) _____ (not need) to do it. I (9) _____ (know) that it's easier for me to remember things when I (10) _____ (hear) them. I can't be bothered to read it!
- Alice Different people, different learning styles, I (11) _____ (guess)! Anyway, (12) _____ we _____ (go) to the cinema tonight or not?

C. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words including the word given.

- Have you got any plans for tonight?
What _____ tonight?
- My parents travel by train most of the time.
My parents _____ by train.
- Brian rarely visits his grandparents.
Brian _____ his grandparents.
- We might go to Venezuela next year.
We _____ to Venezuela next year.
- My brother never stops playing computer games.
My brother _____ computer games.
- We've arranged to meet outside the shopping centre.
We _____ outside the shopping centre.

are

usually

often

thinking

always

are

D. There is a mistake in each sentence. Find it and correct it.

- I'm thinking Mrs Miller is an excellent teacher.
- Kevin sees some of his old classmates on Saturday.
- The last bus is getting here at 11 p.m. every day.
- This milk is tasting strange. Are you sure it's fresh?
- Sheila isn't liking driving at night.
- Johnson is getting the ball and scores!
- My cousin works at a petrol station this summer.
- She's often riding her bike to school.

