

Non-progressive verbs



Certain groups of verbs are **not** used in the progressive (or continuous) tenses:

I understand.

(Not I am understanding.)

- These are **non-action** verbs.

There are 3 main groups of verbs that are not used in progressive tenses:

- **Feelings, opinions, or thoughts**

I think he's crazy!

She feels great today.

- **Possession**

They have a dog.

She owns a house.

- **Perceptions (Senses)**

This pizza smells delicious.

It tastes good.

What's the difference?

- The pizza tastes good.
- I am tasting the pizza.

- **Non-action, existing state** (the pizza is not doing anything.)
- **Action, activity in progress** (I am doing something to the pizza.)

Some exceptions

- **Idiomatic expressions**

We are having a good time.

We are having dinner.

Paula and Mario are seeing each other.

I'm loving it!