

1 Language reference

GRAMMAR

Stative & dynamic verbs

Some verbs can only be used in the simple form. These are called stative verbs. They often describe emotions, opinions, the senses and states that do not change.

I love you. Not ~~*I am loving you.*~~

He seems friendly. Not ~~*He is seeming friendly.*~~

Here are some common stative verbs:

agree appear be believe belong contain
dislike fit forget hate know last like
love matter mean need own prefer
realize remember seem understand want

We can use most verbs in both the simple and the continuous forms. These are called dynamic verbs.

The weather is getting worse.

It often snows in January.

It is possible for some verbs to be both dynamic and stative if they have two different meanings.

He has a house in north London. (have = own)

She's having a few problems. (have = experience)

Other common verbs that can be dynamic or stative (with different meanings) include:

be feel see smell think

Present simple & present continuous

We use the present simple:

- to talk about facts (things that are always true) and permanent situations.

She lives in a small flat.

- to talk about habits and actions that happen regularly.

She drives the kids to school every day.

We use the present continuous:

- to talk about actions that are happening at the moment of speaking.

He's trying to explain a problem to them.

- to talk about temporary situations and activities.

She's going through a very rebellious phase.

We can sometimes use both the present simple and the present continuous. Our choice depends on how we see the action.

I live in Madrid. (= I think this is permanent.)

I'm living in Madrid. (= I think this is temporary.)

See page 64 for information about the present tenses with future meaning.

Subject & object questions

The usual word order in questions is:

| | auxiliary verb | subject | verb |
|-------------|----------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Who | does | he | work for? |
| What | do | you | do on New Year's Eve? |
| Which party | did | you | vote for? |

These questions are called object questions because the question words (*who, what, which party*) are the object of the verb.

In some *Wh-* questions, the question word (*who, what, which* or *how many*) is the subject of the verb. These are called subject questions. With a subject question, we do not need an auxiliary verb (*do, does* or *did*) with the present simple and the past simple.

| subject (question word) | verb |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Who | thinks the test is a good idea? |
| What | happens on New Year's Eve? |
| Which party | won the last election? |
| How many people | voted for the government? |

FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE

Describing people

What is she like?

(= We are asking for a general description of the person.)

What does she look like?

(= We are asking for a description of the person's appearance.)

What does she like?

(= We are asking about the person's preferences or interests.)

| | |
|-----------|---|
| She looks | + adjective <i>intelligent.</i> |
| | like + noun <i>like a doctor.</i> |
| | as if/as though + phrase <i>as if she needs a holiday.</i> |

Some English speakers use *like* instead of *as if/as though*. Many people, however, think this is incorrect.

She looks like she needs a holiday.

WORD LIST

See page 125 for a list of abbreviations.

Self-image

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| consider (sb) + <i>adj</i> | /kən'sɪdə/ |
| consider (sb) to be ... | /kən'sɪdə tə ,bi:/ |
| describe (sb) as ... | /dɪ'skraɪb əz/ |
| proud to + <i>infinitive</i> | /praʊd ,tu:/ |
| see (sb) as ... | /si: əz/ |
| think of (sb) as ... | /θɪŋk əv əz/ |

Describing people

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| average <i>adj</i> *** | /æv(ə)rɪdʒ/ |
| bald <i>adj</i> * | /bɔ:ld/ |
| blond <i>adj</i> * | /blɒnd/ |
| build <i>n C</i> * | /bɪld/ |
| complexion <i>n C</i> * | /kəm'plekʃn/ |
| dark <i>adj</i> *** | /dɑ:k/ |
| healthy <i>adj</i> *** | /helθi/ |
| muscular <i>adj</i> | /mʌskjʊlə/ |
| narrow <i>adj</i> *** | /nærəʊ/ |
| pale <i>adj</i> *** | /peɪl/ |
| pointed <i>adj</i> * | /pɔɪntɪd/ |
| prominent <i>adj</i> ** | /prɒmɪnənt/ |
| round <i>adj</i> *** | /raʊnd/ |
| shaved <i>adj</i> | /ʃeɪvd/ |
| shiny <i>adj</i> * | /ʃaɪni/ |
| slim <i>adj</i> ** | /slɪm/ |
| straight <i>adj</i> ** | /streɪt/ |
| tanned <i>adj</i> | /tænd/ |
| wavy <i>adj</i> | /weɪvi/ |
| wide <i>adj</i> *** | /waɪd/ |

Other words & phrases

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| accounts <i>n pl</i> ** | /ə'kaʊnts/ |
| analyst <i>n C</i> ** | /ænə'lɪst/ |
| approachable <i>adj</i> | /ə'prəʊtʃəbl/ |
| arrest <i>v</i> ** | /ə'rest/ |
| arrogant <i>adj</i> * | /ærə'gənt/ |
| automatic <i>n C/adj</i> * | /ɔ:tə'mætɪk/ |
| base <i>n C</i> *** | /beɪs/ |
| beefeater <i>n C</i> | /bi:fi:tə/ |
| bite <i>v</i> ** | /baɪt/ |
| boss <i>n C</i> *** | /bɒs/ |
| branch <i>n C</i> *** | /brɑ:ntʃ/ |
| budget <i>n C</i> *** | /bʌdʒɪt/ |
| businesslike <i>adj</i> | /'bɪznəs,laɪk/ |
| button <i>n C</i> ** | /bʌtn/ |
| career <i>n C</i> *** | /kə'riə/ |
| cashier <i>n C</i> | /kæ'ʃɪə/ |
| challenge <i>n C</i> *** | /tʃælɪndʒ/ |
| chaos <i>n U</i> ** | /keɪɒs/ |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| chew <i>v</i> ** | /tʃu:/ |
| citizen <i>n C</i> *** | /sɪtɪzn/ |
| clever <i>adj</i> ** | /klevə/ |
| clip <i>n C</i> * | /klɪp/ |
| colleague <i>n C</i> *** | /kəli:ɡ/ |
| concept <i>n C</i> *** | /kɒnsept/ |
| cope <i>v</i> *** | /kəʊp/ |
| courtroom <i>n C</i> | /kɔ:trʊ:m/ |
| crossword <i>n C</i> * | /krɒs,wɜ:d/ |
| cucumber <i>n C</i> | /'kju:kʌmbə/ |
| date <i>v</i> *** | /deɪt/ |
| day-to-day <i>adj</i> * | /deɪtə'deɪ/ |
| decent <i>adj</i> ** | /di:sənt/ |
| define <i>v</i> *** | /drɪfaɪn/ |
| dial <i>v</i> * | /daɪəl/ |
| diplomacy <i>n U</i> | /drɪpləʊməsɪ/ |
| emergency | /ɪ'mɜ:dʒənsɪ, |
| <i>services n pl</i> | sɜ:vɪsɪz/ |
| expense <i>n C</i> *** | /ɪk'spens/ |
| expert <i>n C</i> *** | /ekspɜ:t/ |
| eye-opener <i>n C</i> | /aɪ əʊpnə/ |
| fake <i>v/adj/n C</i> | /feɪk/ |
| fidget <i>v</i> | /fɪdʒɪt/ |
| fireworks <i>n pl</i> | /faɪəwɜ:ks/ |
| fit <i>adj</i> ** | /fɪt/ |
| flatly <i>adv</i> | /flætli/ |
| fuel <i>n U</i> *** | /fju:əl/ |
| fuss <i>n U</i> * | /fʌs/ |
| get away with (sth) <i>v</i> | /get ə'weɪ wɪð/ |
| give (sb) away <i>v</i> | /gɪv ə'weɪ/ |
| govern <i>v</i> ** | /gʌvn/ |
| head office <i>n C</i> | /hed 'ɒfɪs/ |
| headquarters <i>n pl</i> ** | /hed'kwɔ:təz/ |
| hero <i>n C</i> ** | /hɪərəʊ/ |
| imaginary <i>adj</i> * | /ɪ'mædʒɪnəri/ |
| immigrant <i>v</i> | /ɪmɪgrənt/ |
| impress <i>v</i> ** | /ɪm'pres/ |
| instrument <i>n C</i> *** | /ɪnstrʊmənt/ |
| intrigue <i>v</i> | /ɪn'tri:g/ |
| invade <i>v</i> * | /ɪn'veɪd/ |
| invasion <i>n C</i> ** | /ɪn'veɪzən/ |
| investment <i>n C</i> *** | /ɪn'vestmənt/ |
| irrelevant <i>adj</i> ** | /ɪreləvənt/ |
| judgement <i>n C</i> ** | /dʒʌdʒmənt/ |
| karaoke <i>n U</i> | /kæri'əʊki/ |
| kid <i>n C</i> *** | /kɪd/ |
| liar <i>n C</i> | /laɪə/ |
| lie <i>v/n C</i> *** | /laɪ/ |
| lifestyle <i>n C</i> ** | /laɪf,staɪl/ |
| likeable <i>adj</i> | /laɪkəbl/ |
| live off (sth/sb) <i>v</i> | /lɪv ɒf/ |
| marketing <i>n U</i> *** | /mɑ:kɪtɪŋ/ |
| mayor <i>n C</i> ** | /meə/ |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| mess around <i>v</i> | /mes ə'raʊnd/ |
| modest <i>adj</i> ** | /mɒdɪst/ |
| multiculturalism <i>n U</i> | /mʌltɪ 'kʌltʃərəlɪzəm/ |
| mum <i>n C</i> ** | /mʌm/ |
| noodle <i>n C</i> | /nu:dl/ |
| old-age pensioner <i>n C</i> | /əʊld eɪdʒ 'penʃ(ə)nə/ |
| palm <i>n C</i> ** | /pɑ:m/ |
| parliament <i>n C</i> *** | /pɑ:ləmənt/ |
| patiently <i>adv</i> | /peɪʃəntli/ |
| patriotism <i>n U</i> | /pætrɪə,tɪzəm; 'peɪtrɪə,tɪzəm/ |
| personnel <i>n pl</i> ** | /pɜ:sə'nel/ |
| phase <i>n C</i> *** | /feɪz/ |
| pigeon <i>n C</i> * | /pɪdʒən/ |
| political <i>adj</i> *** | /pə'lɪtɪkl/ |
| politician <i>n C</i> ** | /pɒlə'tɪʃn/ |
| pretend <i>v</i> ** | /prɪ'tend/ |
| racism <i>n U</i> * | /reɪ,sɪz(ə)m/ |
| reality TV <i>n U</i> | /ri:æləti ti:'vi:/ |
| rebellious <i>adj</i> | /rɪ'beljəs/ |
| refugee <i>n C</i> *** | /refjʊ'dʒi:/ |
| replace <i>v</i> *** | /rɪ'pleɪs/ |
| reviewer <i>n C</i> | /rɪ'vju:ə/ |
| rhythm <i>n C</i> ** | /rɪðəm/ |
| right-wing <i>adj</i> * | /raɪt'wɪŋ/ |
| royalties <i>n pl</i> | /rɔ:əltɪz/ |
| scary <i>adj</i> * | /skeəri/ |
| self-important <i>adj</i> | /selfɪm'pɔ:tənt/ |
| sincere <i>adj</i> * | /sɪn'sɪə/ |
| single parent <i>n C</i> | /sɪŋgl 'peərənt/ |
| snottiness <i>n U</i> | /snɒtɪnəs/ |
| socialist <i>adj/n C</i> | /səʊʃəlɪst/ |
| soft spot <i>n C</i> | /sɒft 'spɒt/ |
| specialize in (sth) <i>v</i> | /speʃəlaɪz ɪn/ |
| spot <i>v</i> ** | /spɒt/ |
| staff <i>n U</i> *** | /stɑ:f/ |
| stage <i>n C</i> *** | /steɪdʒ/ |
| stand for <i>v</i> | /stænd ,fɔ:/ |
| stick to <i>v</i> | /stɪk ,tu:/ |
| stubborn <i>adj</i> * | /stʌbən/ |
| sweaty <i>adj</i> | /sweti/ |
| stumble <i>v</i> * | /stʌmbl/ |
| technical <i>adj</i> *** | /tekɪnɪkl/ |
| telltale <i>adj</i> | /tel,tel/ |
| tension <i>n U</i> *** | /tenʃn/ |
| tight <i>adj</i> * | /taɪt/ |
| till <i>n C</i> | /tɪl/ |
| traditionally <i>adv</i> | /trə'dɪʃnəli/ |
| typical <i>adj</i> *** | /tɪpɪkl/ |
| volunteer <i>n C/v</i> | /vɒlən'tɪə/ |
| watch out <i>v</i> | /wɒtʃ 'aʊt/ |