


Non-progressive Verbs

About fifty verbs do not normally take the progressive form (continuous form). They are non-progressive in the present tense and in most other tenses as well, and are divided into nine groups:

 See also CEG 69 – 71 on pp. 47-9. Notice the difference between *activity verbs* and *state verbs*.

1. Verbs which describe **appearance**

He **appears** to be very happy. appear
It **looks as if** she's not coming. look
She **looks like** her mother.
BUT: He's looking for / after / etc his dog.
They **seem** to be lost. seem
Your new dress **suits** you very well. suit

2. **Auxiliary** verbs

Bob **can** drive. can
Do you **dare to** go there alone? / **Dare** you go there alone? dare
He **may** decide not to come. may
They **must** finish the work as soon as possible. must
Jane **needs** to eat more fruit. need
He **ought** to be more polite. ought

3. Verbs of **emotion**

He **adores** eating Chinese food. adore
She **appreciates** everything that he does for her. appreciate
I **detest** travelling by bus. detest
Many people **dislike** paying their taxes. dislike
My dog **hates** to go out in the rain. hate
They **like** French cheese. like
He **loves** his wife very much. love
She **prefers** the Spice Girls to Beethoven. prefer

4. Verbs expressing **existence**

He **is** Scottish. be
We **are** very happy.
I **am** nearly seventeen.
BUT: He's being (= behaving) silly again.
"Be careful, Tom!" – "But I am being careful."
The verb *to be* can be continuous in the passive voice.
He **keeps** (= continues) saying he doesn't understand. keep
I think, therefore I **exist**. exist

5. Verbs expressing **knowledge**

I doubt if you have ever heard of this book.	doubt
I forget who told me this story but it's very interesting.	forget
He knows he shouldn't do it.	know
I now realise that it was a stupid thing to do.	realise
John remembers going there with his great-grandfather.	remember
That reminds me... have you phoned your father yet?	remind
Now I understand why she didn't want to come.	understand

6. Verbs of **perception**

It feels like silk but it's cotton.	feel
BUT: I am feeling my knee to see where the pain is. How do you feel today? / How are you feeling today?	
I (can) hear a strange noise.	hear
I notice you don't like bacon and eggs.	notice
She says that she recognises you.	recognise
At last they see their mistakes.	see
BUT: I am seeing (= meeting) my doctor on Thursday.	
They say that they (can) smell gas.	smell
This coffee smells good.	
BUT: I was smelling the roses when a bee stung me.	
That sounds like a good idea!	sound
These rotten eggs stink .	stink
This tea tastes awful.	taste
BUT: Dad is tasting it.	

7. Verbs of **possession**

That car belongs to Mr Jones.	belong
Mr Stowcrat has (= possesses) five cars.	have
BUT: At the moment she is having her tea / a bath.	
Do you realise that she owes me over thousand pounds?	owe
Who owns that dog which is barking all night?	own

8. Verbs of **thought**

The police believe he escaped last night.	believe
What does this word mean ?	mean
I suppose you'd like some more ice-cream.	suppose
They think (= believe) he speaks French, however, they're not sure.	think
BUT: I am thinking about (= considering) what to do. We are thinking of going there next week.	

9. Verbs expressing a **wish**

The boss wants to see you as soon as possible.	want
I wish he would go away.	wish