

To infinitive and beyond! What are state verbs?

State verbs are verbs that are related to thoughts and opinions (states of being) rather than verbs that relate to an action, also known as dynamic verbs. In general, these verbs are used to relate to elements like emotions, senses, beliefs, opinions, possessions, and states of being. Here is a list of some common state verbs:

- to be *ser/estar*
- to have *tener*
- to own *poseer*
- to agree/disagree *estar/no estar de acuerdo*
- to remember *recordar*
- to guess *adivinar*
- to imagine *imaginar*
- to feel *sentirse*
- to hear *oír*
- to smell *oler*
- to know *saber*
- to care *cuidar*
- to deserve *merecer*
- to prefer *preferir*
- to taste *saborear*
- to want *querer*
- to wish *ojalá*
- to mind *importar*
- to like *gustar*
- to love *encantar*
- to hate *odiar*
- to understand *entender*

Here are some common examples of sentences with state verbs:

Be (am, is, are, was, were, etc.):

- He is a teacher. *Él es un profesor*
- She was happy. *Ella era feliz*
- They are friends. *Ellos son amigos*

Like:

- I like chocolate. *Me gusta el chocolate*
- She likes reading. *Le gusta leer*

Love:

- They love each other. *Se aman*
- He loves playing the guitar. *Le encanta tocar la guitarra*

Hate:

- She hates spiders. *Ella odia las arañas*
- We hate waiting. *Odiamos esperar*

Know:

- I know the answer. *Yo sé la respuesta*
- She knows how to swim. *Ella sabe cómo nadar*

Understand:

- He understands the situation. *Él entiende la situación*
- They don't understand the question. *No entienden la pregunta*

Want:

- She wants a new car. *Ella quiere un coche nuevo*
- We want to go on vacation. *Queremos ir de vacaciones*

State verbs are generally not used in continuous or progressive forms (e.g., "I am knowing" *Estoy sabiendo* or "He is belonging" *Él está sabiendo*). Instead, they are typically used in simple tenses. However, there are some cases where a verb can function as both a state verb and a dynamic verb, depending on the context. For example, "have" can be a state verb when expressing possession ("I have a car" *Tengo un coche*) and a dynamic verb when indicating actions like experiencing something ("I am having a good time" *Me lo estoy pasando bien*).

Now it's time to practice! Take a look at the exercises on the next page.

Exercise 1: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate state verb:

1. She _____ (love) to travel to new places.
2. They _____ (have) a beautiful house in the countryside.
3. We _____ (know) the answer to that question.
4. Why _____ you always _____ (complain)?
5. The cat _____ (belong) to our neighbors.
6. He _____ (understand) the importance of the project.
7. I _____ (like) classical music.
8. My parents _____ (be) very proud of my achievements.
9. They _____ (hate) waiting for long hours.
10. The kids _____ (want) a pet dog for a long time.

Exercise 2: Correct the Mistakes:

1. She is wanting a cup of coffee.
2. We are having a great time on vacation.
3. I am knowing the solution to the problem.
4. They are understanding the instructions clearly.
5. My brother is hating broccoli.
6. The car is belonging to my sister.
7. Do you like a piece of cake?
8. He is being a very reliable friend.
9. We are knowing the details of the plan.
10. The kids are wanting to go to the park.

Answer key:

Exercise 1:

1. She **loves** to travel to new places.
2. They **have** a beautiful house in the countryside.
3. We **know** the answer to that question.
4. Why do you always **complain**?
5. The cat **belongs** to our neighbors.
6. He **understands** the importance of the project.
7. I **like** classical music.
8. My parents **are** very proud of my achievements.
9. They **hate** waiting for long hours.
10. The kids **have** wanted a pet dog for a long time.

Exercise 2:

1. She **wants** a cup of coffee.
2. We **are having** a great time on vacation.
3. I **know** the solution to the problem.
4. They **understand** the instructions clearly.
5. My brother **hates** broccoli.
6. The car **belongs** to my sister.
7. Do you **want** a piece of cake?
8. He **is** a very reliable friend.
9. We **know** the details of the plan.
10. The kids **want** to go to the park.