**'action verbs' can be used in BE + -ING:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| https://www.anglaisfacile.com/cgi2/myexam/images2/35408.gif | https://www.anglaisfacile.com/cgi2/myexam/images2/27128.jpg |
| My mother***is cooking*** dinner now | My father ***cooks*** dinner on Sundays |
|  |  |

**'non action verbs' or 'stative verbs' cannot be used in BE + -ING:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ABSTRACT | be, believe,know, need, understand, remember, think,  imagine, forget, mean, exist... |
| FEELINGS | like, dislike, love, hate, fear, envy, care... |
| SENSES | hear, see, feel, smell, taste,  sound,  seem |
| BELONGINGS | own, have, belong, possess |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| https://www.anglaisfacile.com/cgi2/myexam/images/17918.gif | https://www.anglaisfacile.com/cgi2/myexam/images/20396.gif |
| Sarah **looks**beautiful. | The detective **is looking** for a clue |

**non-action verbs**

Non-action verbs are used to describe states, senses, desires, possession, emotions and opinion.  
Non-action verbs are not usually used in continuous tenses.

For example:

non-action verbsLike non-action verbsLove non-action verbsWant non-action verbsNeed non-action verbsBelieve non-action verbsRemember non-action verbsBelong non-action verbsSeem non-action verbsOwn non-action verbsSee non-action verbsTaste non-action verbsHear

**verbs with continuous tenses**

We can only use 'Action Verbs' with continuous tenses (for example, Present Continuous). We do not use 'Non-Action Verbs' with continuous tenses.

Look at these examples:

* *'I am liking this pizza'*  
  'To like' is a state verb, not an action verb, and does not happen. It cannot be continuous. You like (or you don't like) something. "I like this pizza" is correct.
* 'I am not believing you'  
  'To believe' is a state verb, not an action verb. It cannot be continuous. You believe (or you don't believe) somebody or something. **"I don't believe you"** is correct.

**verbs which have both action and non-action forms**

Some verbs can be used as action or non-action verbs, depending on their meaning. For example:

**'To think'**can mean 'to believe' or 'to have an opinion'. In this sense it is a non-action verb.

* I think he is American.... >> Not:  I am thinking he is American.
* What do you think about my plan?... >> Not:  What are you thinking about my plan?

**However**, 'to think' can also mean 'to consider' and this is an action you perform. In this sense, 'to think' is an action verb.

* I'm thinking about buying a new car. >> This means 'I am considering buying a new car' and is correct.

**'To have'**can be used to talk about possession and in this form is a non-action verb. In this form, the verb 'to possess' can replace 'to have'.

* Laura has a BMW...or: Laura possesses a BMW  >> Not: Laura is having a BMW.
* They have a nice house   (or)    They possess a nice house   >>    **Not:**  They are having a nice house.