

## Stative vs active (present perfect continuous)

Stative verbs are generally not used in continuous tenses, including the present perfect continuous, because they indicate states, not actions or processes. Stative verbs include verbs of sensing (e.g., see, hear), thinking and feeling (e.g., think, believe), and having (e.g., own, possess).

However, some stative verbs can be used in a continuous tense when they take on a more temporary, active meaning. For example, the verb 'have' is usually stative, but in a sentence like I am having a shower, it's active and can be used in a continuous tense.

### Exercise 1: Classifying Exercise

Classify the following verbs as Stative (S) or Active (A) based on their usage in the sentences:

1. I've been thinking about starting my own business. (\_\_\_\_)
2. She's known him for several years. (\_\_\_\_)
3. They've been having trouble with the new software. (\_\_\_\_)
4. We've seen that movie many times. (\_\_\_\_)
5. He's been expecting a promotion at work. (\_\_\_\_)

### Exercise 2:

Choose the correct form of the verb to complete the sentences:

1. I (have been having/have had) a headache since I woke up.
2. They (have been owning/have owned) this house for three years now.
3. She (has been knowing/has known) him for a long time.
4. We (have been seeing/have seen) each other quite often recently.
5. You (have been believing/have believed) in this cause since the beginning.

### Exercise 3: Gap Fill Exercise

Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verb in brackets:

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ (think) about a career change recently.
2. She \_\_\_\_\_ (know) him for several years.
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ (have) trouble understanding the new rules.
4. We \_\_\_\_\_ (see) that play twice now.
5. He \_\_\_\_\_ (want) a new bike for some time.

Exercise 1: Classifying Exercise Classify the following verbs as Stative (S) or Active (A) based on their usage in the sentences:

1. I've been thinking about starting my own business. (A)
2. She's known him for several years. (S)
3. They've been having trouble with the new software. (A)
4. We've seen that movie many times. (S)
5. He's been expecting a promotion at work. (A)

Exercise 2: Choose the correct form of the verb to complete the sentences:

1. I **have had** a headache since I woke up.
2. They **have owned** this house for three years now.
3. She **has known** him for a long time.
4. We have **been seeing/ have seen** each other quite often recently. (both possible but slight differences in meaning)
5. You **have believed** in this cause since the beginning.

Exercise 3: Gap Fill Exercise Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verb in brackets:

1. I **have been thinking** about a career change recently.
2. She **has known** him for several years.
3. They **have been having** trouble understanding the new rules.
4. We **have seen** that play twice now.
5. He **has wanted/has been wanting** a new bike for some time. (both possible - present perfect continuous can be flexible with some verbs)