**State Verbs**

1. There are certain groups of verbs that **are usually only used in the (Present (perfect)/ Past (perfect)) Simple**. Their meanings are related to states or conditions that are facts, not activities.

***Verbs of thinking and opinions***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| believe | think | understand | suppose | expect | agree |
| doubt | know | remember | forget | promise | mean |
| imagine | realize | deserve | guess |  |  |

*Example: I* ***believe*** *you.*

***Do*** *you* ***understand*** *what I mean?*

***Verbs of emotions and feelings***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| like | love | hate | care | hope |
| wish | want | prefer | adore | dislike |

*Example: I* ***like*** *black coffee.*

***Do*** *you* ***want*** *to go out?*

*I* ***don’t care****.*

***Verbs of having and being***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| belong | own | have | possess | contain | cost | seem |
| matter | need | depend | weigh | resemble | fit | involve |

*Example: This book* ***belongs*** *to Jane.*

*How much* ***does*** *it* ***cost****?*

*He* ***has*** *a lot of money.*

***Verbs of the senses***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| look | hear | taste | smell | sound | feel |

*Example: The food* ***smells*** *good.*

*My hair* ***feels*** *soft.*

We often use can when the subject is a person.

*I* ***can hear*** *someone crying*

***Can*** *you* ***smell*** *something burning?*

1. Some of these verbs can be used in the (Present (perfect)/ Past (perfect)) Continuous, but with a change of meaning. In the continuous, the verb expresses an activity, not a state.

Compare:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *I* ***think*** *you’re right. (opinion)* | *We’****re thinking*** *of going to the cinema. (mental activity)* |
| *He* ***has*** *a lot of money. (possession)* | *She’****s having*** *a bad day. (activity)* |
| *I* ***see*** *what you mean. (understand)* | ***Are you seeing*** *Nigel tomorrow? (activity)* |
| *The soup* ***tastes*** *awful. (state)* | *I’****m tasting*** *the soup to see i fit needs salt. (activity)* |