



Module: English

Branch: International Trade

Level: Third year Bachelor

## Lecture 08: State verbs and action verbs

### 1- States and actions

#### - STATES

A state means something staying the same.

*The flat **is** clean.*

*The farmer **owns** the land.*

*The box **contained** old books.* State verbs cannot usually be continuous. NOT

*The farmer is owning the land.*

#### - ACTIONS

An action means something happening.

***I'm cleaning** the flat.*

*The farmer **is buying** the land.*

*He **put** the books in the box.* Action verbs can be simple or continuous.

*He **put** I He **was putting** everything away.*

Some state verbs: **be, believe, belong, consist of, contain, depend on,**

**deserve, exist, hate, know, like, love,**

**matter, mean, own, need, prefer, remember, resemble, seem, understand**

### 2- I think/I'm thinking etc

Sometimes we can use a verb either for a state or for an action.

#### - STATES (simple tenses)

*I **think** you're right. (= believe) We*

***have** three cars. (= own) I **come***

*from Sweden. (= live in)*

*I **see** your problem. (= understand)*

*Do you **see** that house? (= have in sight)*

*This picture **looks** nice.*

*She **appears** very nervous. (= seems)*

*The bag **weighed** five kilos.*

*The coat **fits**. (= is the right size)*

#### - ACTIONS (simple or continuous)

***I'm thinking** about the problem.*

*We're **having** lunch. (= eating)*

***I'm coming** from Sweden. (= travelling)*

*/ usually **come** on the plane.*  
*Mark **is seeing** his boss. (= meeting)*  
*I **see** Daniel quite often.*  
***I'm looking** at this picture.*

*She **appeared/was appearing** in a film.*  
*They **weighed/were weighing** my bag.*

***I'm fitting** a lock to the window.*

These examples with the verb **be** are about how people behave.

- PERMANENT QUALITY

*Claire **is** a very sociable person. That man **is** an idiot*

- TEMPORARY BEHAVIOUR

*Andrew **is being** very sociable today. You **are being** an idiot this morning.*  
(= You are behaving like an idiot.)

*You **are being** an idiot this morning.*

(= You are behaving like an idiot.)

We use **am/are/is being** only to talk about behaviour, not about other things. *I'm better now, thanks. **Are** you ready? **Is** anyone interested?*

- **I like/I'm liking** etc

We can use some state verbs in the continuous to talk about a short period of time.

PERMANENT STATE (simple tenses)

*/ **love/enjoy** parties.*

*I **like** school.*

*Holidays **cost** a lot of money.*

SHORT PERIOD (continuous)

*- **I'm loving/enjoying** this party. **I'm liking** school much better now. This trip **is costing** me a lot of money.*

Sometimes we can use either the simple or the continuous with no difference in meaning.

*You **look** well, OR You're **looking** well. We **feel** a bit sad. OR We're **feeling** a bit sad.*