

## Practice Test Topic 31: The verb - classes

### ACTIVITY 1

Indicate whether the underlined verb phrases are *stative* or *dynamic* in the context given. What criteria have you used?

1. This tank holds precisely 10 litres.
2. Hold the handle very firmly.
3. Answer the question more precisely.
4. He's a fool. Don't listen to him.
5. We have only two tickets, I'm afraid.
6. I was having my coffee quietly.
7. Smell this meat.
8. Does it smell bad?
9. I think I hear someone coming.
10. I'm thinking of going to Brussels next year.

## KEY

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Indicate whether the underlined verb phrases are *stative* or *dynamic* in the context given. What criteria have you used?

The criterion used in all cases have been (i) whether the verb admits progressive modification and (i) whether the meaning implies an action (dynamic verb) or mental activity (stative verb).

1. This tank holds precisely 10 litres → STATIVE. The meaning is similar to ways of weighing (state).
2. Hold the handle very firmly → DYNAMIC. It is possible to say “I’m holding this handle” + it is an action.
3. Answer the question more precisely → DYNAMIC.
4. He’s a fool. Don’t listen to him. → STATIVE (*be*); DYNAMIC (*listen*).
5. We have only two tickets, I’m afraid. → STATIVE (both of them). *Have* means “possession” in this context.
6. I was having my coffee quietly → DYNAMIC. The meaning is “taking, drinking”, not “possession”.
7. Smell this meat → DYNAMIC, it is the action of “smelling”.
8. Does it smell bad? → STATIVE
9. I think I hear someone coming. → STATIVE (*think, hear*), DYNAMIC (*coming*).
10. I’m thinking of going to Brussels next year → DYNAMIC. *Think* in this context does not mean “believe”, but rather “plan, have the intention of doing something”.

### IMPORTANT NOTE for examples 7 and 8

This difference between the dynamic and stative uses of the verbs *smell* and *feel* has a further impact on grammar:

*I feel good* (I’m great!) vs. *I feel well* (my capacity to feel is unhampered)

*I smell good* (because I’m wearing perfume) vs. *I smell well* (I could be recruited to try wines!)

The same may be applied to the verb *taste*.