



There are some verbs which we don't normally use in the present continuous:

Verbs of thinking: *believe, understand, know, think, mean, hope.*

Scientists believe the Earth is 4.6 billion years old.

(not ~~Scientists are believing~~ ...)

Believe:

Understand:

Know:

Think:

Mean:

Hope:

Verbs of liking and not liking: *like, hate, love, want, need, prefer.*

I like those monkeys over there. (not ~~I'm liking~~ ...)

like:

hate:

love:

want:

need:

prefer:

Verbs of owning: *own, belong, have.*

*That coat belongs to me. (not ~~That coat's~~
belonging ...)*

own:

belong:

have:

Verbs to describe sensations: *see, feel, hear, smell, taste.*

The water feels very cold

see:

feel:

hear:

Smell:

Taste:

However, we can use the present continuous to say how someone looks or feels now.

How do you feel today? I feel better.

or *How are you feeling today? I'm feeling better.*

We often use *can* with these verbs.

I can hear the sea from my bedroom. (not I'm hearing)

When *think* means 'have an opinion' about something, we do not use the continuous.

Scientists think there are about 1,000 wild pandas left. (not ~~Scientists are thinking~~ ...)

However, when *think* means 'consider', we use the continuous.

I'm thinking of working in a zoo when I'm older.

Complete the table with these verbs.

believe buy climb feel
hate like make mean
~~need~~ own ~~run~~ sing
understand want work

**Verbs we can use in
the continuous**

run

**Verbs we don't
normally use in the
continuous**

need

Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 0** Jack's behind that tree. I can see / 'm seeing him.
- 1** I know / 'm knowing the names of all the rivers in my country.
- 2** My brother learns / 's learning about the weather at the moment.
- 3** You need / 're needing to do your homework before Tuesday.
- 4** You're very quiet. What do you think / are you thinking about?
- 5** My friends don't play / aren't playing football today. It's cold.
- 6** Can you say that again? We don't understand / aren't understanding.
- 7** Can you hear / Are you hearing that strange noise?

Write complete sentences. Use the present simple or the present continuous.

0 Shh! I / think.

Shhh! I'm thinking.

1 I / not understand / this exercise.

2 My friends / think football is boring.

3 What / you / do right now?

4 We / not want to watch the film.

5 That dog / belong to my cousin.

6 Penguins / not feel / the cold weather.

7 I / not like this book very much.