

Some verbs are not used in progressive forms.

I love you. (NOT I am loving you.)

I like this color. (NOT I am liking this color.)

I rang her up because I wanted to speak. (NOT I rang her up because I was wanting to speak.)

Many of these non-progressive verbs refer to states rather than actions.

Common non-progressive verbs

Here is a list of some common verbs which are not often used in progressive forms.

*Believe, doubt, feel, imagine, know, dislike, love, hate, prefer, realize, recognize, remember, see, suppose, think, understand, want, wish, appear, hear, look, see, seem, smell, sound, taste, agree, deny, astonish, disagree, impress, mean, please, promise, satisfy, surprise, belong, concern, consist, depend, fit, involve, lack, matter, need, owe, own, possess, weigh etc.*

Notes

Feel does not have a progressive form when it means 'have an opinion'.

I feel you are making a mistake. (NOT I am feeling you are making a mistake.)

See does not have a progressive form when it means 'understand'.

I see what you mean. (NOT I am seeing what you mean.)

Look does not have a progressive form when it means 'seem'.

She looks like she is rich. (NOT She is looking like she is rich.)

Weigh does not have a progressive form when it means 'have weight'.

He weighs 70 kilos. (NOT He is weighing 70 kilos.)