



REAL ENGLISH

GET ENGLISH USEFUL FOR YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE!

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Aomori Prefecture English Education Society

## どうして動詞が大切な

動詞は、行為や状態の変化を表す詞（ことば）。みなさんの頭の中で動詞は、教えられてきたもしくは学習してきたイメージで、動的か静的か、動作か状態か、多少のブレがあるのではないのでしょうか。今回は大きく2つに分類しています。日本語でももちろんそうですが、実際に使われる場面で、例え同じ単語でも様々な表現になります。みなさんの頭の中ですとんと落ちるかも知れませんよ。それでは早速見ていきましょう。

### Verbs: [Dynamic and Active] ... or [Stative and Non-Action]

**This month** let's look at two important – and opposite – categories of verbs: dynamic versus stative. Dynamic – or active – verbs are used to describe action, change or process. This is the most common use of verbs, for example in a simple present or a progressive tense. Stative – or non-action – verbs are used to describe a state or a condition. As a condition has no change, no process, no beginning or end ... stative verbs mean only simple and perfect tenses.

#### Verbs as Dynamic

*I eat breakfast at the same time every day.                      I am eating breakfast right now.*

Use of verbs in a dynamic form refer to the actions that make up our daily lives and what we do: *we eat, we talk, we cook, we sit, we watch, we cry, we read, we drive, we send, we wear, ...* and so on.

#### Verbs as Stative

Use of verbs in a stative form refer to *possession, knowledge and opinion, feelings and emotions, and perceptions and the senses.*

*Kenji owns three cars.*  
*She knows the answer.    She thinks she knows the answer.    I think she thinks she knows the answer.*

*Most children don't like vegetables.*

*You seem happy.                      You look healthy.                      You sound excited.*

#### Verbs in both Dynamic and Stative Forms

Some verbs can be used in both dynamic and stative forms ... the meaning is clearly different.

**Have** *Lisa and I have three cats.                      We are having a birthday party for them tomorrow.*

**Think** *I don't think that is a good idea.                      You shouldn't be thinking about the weekend during class.*

**Look** *I look very much like my father. Hey ... what are you looking at over there?*

## Taste, See, Smell, Feel

*This soup tastes just like my Mother's. Taste this soup – see if you like it.*

*Sometimes I feel lonely.*

*Feel this ... it is softer than I imagined.*

Sometimes verbs that are usually stative can also be used in a dynamic (active) sense ...

the meaning is subtly different.

Stubborn is an adjective that demands a stative meaning ....

*Mr. Allen is always stubborn. He never changes his mind or compromises about anything.*

But I can also use adjective stubborn in a dynamic sense.

*Mr. Allen is being stubborn. (What I mean is that he is acting stubborn right now because he knows that he is wrong, but he won't apologize.)*

The verb feel: as active, then stative, then stative again, and stative again ... and then as stative or dynamic ... all with one theme: Mary buying a blanket because she might be ill.

*Mary ... I see that you are carefully checking that blanket –rubbing your hand over it and feeling it. How does it feel – is it soft? I feel that you should pay a little extra in order to get a very soft blanket that feels comfortable for you, especially if you don't feel well ... you know, if you are feeling sick.*

## Other examples:

In these cases, a stative verb is used to make a statement ... then the same verb is used in a dynamic or progressive form to emphasize the sense of 'right now.'

*Tom clearly doesn't believe Richard. I mean, look at his face; he is clearly not believing any of the lies that Richard is telling.*

*Your teacher told me you don't understand this topic. Let me explain it to you.*

[... explanation ... explanation ... explanation ... question and answer ... ]

*So ... we are working hard - good ... are you getting it? Are you understanding it now?*

**And lastly ...** In 2003, the hamburger store McDonald's launched an advertising campaign in order to appeal to younger people ... do you remember the new slogan that was used?

*I'm Lovin' It = I'm Loving It.*

Can you explain the verb use here – using the idea of stative and dynamic verbs?

## Next REAL ENGLISH: DECEMBER!

◇青森県の錦秋の美しさに応じるかのように、海外からの旅行客がコロナ前の水準まで戻ってきているようです。以前は、私もよく駅や通りで英語で道を聞かれました。コロナ禍において、情報通信技術の著しい伸長を目の当たりにしながら、それらを通じたグローバル化の急速な進展とその重要性に驚かされました。しかしながら、いざ人の移動が再開すると対面式のコミュニケーションの大切さを改めて認識させられるところです。海外研修や留学等も然りです。最近、紅葉の秋を深く感じつつ、道すがら、また英語で話しかけられないかなあと、思っている今日この頃です。(文責 伴)

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