

## Tenses #5: Action vs State

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00:09

right before we look at state verbs and

00:13

differentiate them from action verbs I'd

00:18

like to give you a quick overview of the

00:21

tenses that we've already looked at

00:22

together let's review them with three

00:26

action verbs say play drive and rain

00:34

so remember present simple was to speak

00:39

about facts and habits I play tennis

00:42

once a week he drives fast it often

00:48

rains here and then we looked at present

00:52

continuous which indicates an action

00:56

which is in progress now I'm playing

00:59

tennis now he's driving to Paris at the

01:04

moment it's raining again and then we

01:11

moved on to present perfect continuous

01:14

which was to talk about an action that

01:17

started in the past and it's still in

01:20

progress I've been playing tennis since

01:24

I was 12 he has been driving for three

01:29

hours it has been raining all day then

01:36

we looked at present perfect an action

01:39

that's complete at the time of speaking

01:44

I've played tennis with her once he has

01:50

driven 300 kilometers so far it has

01:57

rained three times this week and then we

02:02

looked at past simple which was for an

02:05

action completed at a specific time in

02:08

the past I play tennis with her

02:13

when we were in Spain he drove a hundred

02:18

kilometres before sunrise it rained

02:24

heavily last night now you notice that

02:30

all these examples are with what we call

02:32

action verbs so what is the difference

02:36

between an action verb and a state verb

02:42

an action verb and most verbs are action

02:47

verbs designates an action something

02:51

that you can start and stop as and when

02:55

you want

02:57

by contrast a state verb and there are

03:02

only a few of them designates a mental

03:07

state that you cannot really start and

03:10

stop whenever you want there is a sense

03:14

of continuity in them such as be have

03:21

exist know etc because of this sense of

03:29

continuity

03:30

they don't take continuous tenses that's

03:35

what you have to be careful with when

03:39

you're using your tenses you've got to

03:42

be careful not to put a state verb in

03:45

the continuous form for example let's

03:49

look at the verb to be I'm being tired

03:54

now doesn't sound right does it because

03:59

it's a state verb we only use simple

04:04

tenses with state verbs so I'm being

04:06

tired now changes too I'm tired now oh

04:12

I've been being tired all day sounds

04:16

really strange again because the verb to

04:19

be is a state verb keep it to a simple

04:22

tense in this case present perfect

04:25

simple

04:27

I've been tired all day let's look at

04:33

two other state verbs I'm having a red

04:39

car I can't do because it's a state verb

04:43

I have a red car and I've had this car

04:53

since 2006 one more example of a state

04:59

verb not taking a continuous tense I'm

05:04

knowing this man now simply I know this

05:10

man and I've known him for many years

05:18

now there are four verbs that can be a

05:22

bit tricky because they can be either

05:25

state or action let's look at the first

05:29

one we've already had an example of this

05:31

it's the verb half we saw the sentence I

05:36

have a red car in this example the verb

05:41

to have means to own something that

05:44

belongs to you it's a state verb however

05:49

the verb half replaces many other verbs

05:52

like eat and drink and smoke it

05:55

designates an experience or taking

05:58

something in this case it's an action

06:02

verb and it can take any continuous

06:05

tense

06:06

for example I'm having breakfast or

06:12

they're having a good time the next verb

06:17

that can be tricky is the verb think

06:21

again it has two meanings it can mean to

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believe in which case it's a state verb

06:28

and you must avoid continuous tenses

06:32

here for example I think you're right

06:35

but think also means to reflect

06:40

like you can be thinking about something

06:43

then stop thinking about it and come

06:46

back to it later so it's an action verb

06:50

example I've been thinking about selling

06:54

my house

06:56

the last two verbs you have to be

06:59

careful of are verbs to live and to work

07:03

again they can be considered as an

07:07

action verb or a state verb it depends

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on the situation or the circumstances on

07:13

the context many times whether you use

07:17

it as a state or an action verb whether

07:20

you put it in the continuous or simple

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form doesn't matter really I mean the

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same thing so you could say I've been

07:31

living here for 10 years

07:32

oh I've lived here for 10 years and the

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same the verb work sometimes it's an

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action you can start and stop working

07:46

for example on a project and sometimes

07:49

it's just your job so there is that

07:52

sense of continuity in it already so

07:56

feel which one is more appropriate both

08:00

are correct you can say he has been

08:03

working there since 2008 oh he's worked

08:09

there since 2008 well that's all for

08:16

state verbs

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