

FUMC ESL 10-20-2016 ADVANCED LESSON

Stative verbs are verbs that express a state rather than an action. They usually relate to thoughts, emotions, relationships, senses, states of being and measurements. Some examples of stative verbs are attract, like, love, sound, appear, regret, believe, know.

We usually don't use the present continuous tense (to be + -ing form of verb) with stative verbs. We usually use present tense. EX: I believe in you. NOT I am believing in you. But we can use present continuous when a situation is temporary or around the present time. Explain the difference in these examples: Carley is appearing in the new musical. Carley often appears in musicals.

With some stative verbs that describe mental states (find, realize, regret, think, understand) we can use the present continuous to emphasize that we have recently started to think about something or we are not sure of something. Explain the difference in these examples: I regret that the company will have to be sold. I am regretting my decision to leave the company.

When it means, "think carefully about", consider is only used with the present continuous. EX: I am considering retiring early.

Some stative verbs (agree, believe, conclude, know) are rarely used with the present continuous. We don't ever say, "I am believing in you."

Choose the correct sentence.

1- I bought this new dress today.

- a) How is it looking?
- b) How does it look.

2- What are you doing with that ruler?

- a) I measure the area of the kitchen.
- b) I am measuring the area of the kitchen.

3-I bought this blouse for Anna, but...

- a) it doesn't fit her.
- b) it isn't fitting her.

4-Thanks for your letter.

- a) I am apologizing for not getting back to you sooner.
- b) I apologize for not getting back to you sooner.

5-When I went in to nursing, you warned me that it would be hard work. But,

- a) I'm admitting I didn't really believe you.
- b) I admit I didn't really believe you.

Read this conversation with a partner. The idioms are underlined. Figure out the meaning from context, then discuss them in the group.

Greta: Are you unhappy, Claude?

Claude: Not a bit. Couldn't be happier. Sorry, I must go. I've not a moment to spare. On my way to meet an old girlfriend.

Greta: That sounds interesting.

Claude: I'll have to ask you not to breathe a word about it. It's a bit of a secret. Not a living soul knows about her and I'd like to keep it that way.

Greta: Well, Claude. I don't give a hoot who you are seeing. You could be dating my grandmother, and I wouldn't bat an eye. But I wasn't born yesterday, Claude. And I think there is more to this story than meets the eye.

Claude: Greta, you do go on about things. Don't give it another thought. You don't know the first thing about my social life.

Greta: Well I do know you're not made of money, Claude. So be careful that you don't spend all your resources wining and dining this old girlfriend.

Claude: No need to worry about that. This girl wouldn't set foot in a swanky restaurant. She's a real nature lover. Likes to be outside.

Greta: Don't you think you are a bit old to be running about town with a girl on your arm?

Claude: You might be right. But nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Greta: You always were the kind of guy to enjoy pretty women. I guess old habits die hard.

Claude: I suppose that's true. I'm off and running. See you later.

Greta: Claude, just be sure you're on your best behavior.

Claude: On my honor.

Greta: Jane, have you heard about Claude's girlfriend?

Jane: I heard he was seeing someone. But there's nothing to it. Claude loves to be at home in his easy chair with his fuzzy slippers on.

Greta: Oh he is definitely going out with someone. I ran into him the other day and he couldn't wait to get away from me. I have nothing against him going out. He's not half bad looking, even as old as he is.

Jane: He's not that old. Granted, he's no spring chicken, but I don't think he's over 60. No doubt, he gets lonely sometimes, like everyone else. I say if he can get an old girlfriend interested in him again, then more power to him.

Greta: Well the whole thing just seems so foolish to me.

Jane: You know what they say, "There's no fool like an old fool."

Greta: They also say, "A fool and his money are soon parted." I worry this girl will take advantage of Claude. Maybe I should try to talk to him again.

Jane: Don't waste your breath. Claude has always been his own man. He's never been well-disposed towards people that try to tell him how to live his life.

DISCUSS:

1. Do you think Greta is a busy-body?
2. Do you think she's jealous of Claude's happiness?
3. What do you think of Claude. Is he too old to be chasing women?
4. Jane seems surprised that Claude would go out. How does she describe how he likes to spend his time?
5. Why do you think Claude wanted to keep his old girlfriend secret?
6. Do you think Greta should give Claude advice? Do you think Claude would take her advice?
7. Do you think Claude really is seeing an old girlfriend, or was he just using that as an excuse to get away from Greta?
8. Do you think Greta would like to go out with Claude? What makes you think so?
9. Would you advise an older person not to date?
10. At what age is a person "old"?