

## PRESENT PROGRESSIVE TENSE

In English, the present progressive tense is a two-part verb formed using the present tense of the verb *to be* plus the **-ing** form (called the gerund or present participle) of the main verb. This tense is used to indicate something in progress or happening right now.

I am talking on the phone.                      He is eating.                      They are leaving.

Spanish is the same – but since there are two (2) verbs that mean *to be*, which one should you use? **Estar** is used – NEVER *ser*. Let's review the present tense forms of the verb *estar*.

Estar		To Be	
yo	estoy	nosotros nosotras	estamos
tú	estás	vosotros vosotras	estáis
él ella usted	está	ellos ellas ustedes	están

**The present participle** in Spanish is formed by adding **-ando** to the stem of **-ar** verbs and **-iendo** to the stem of **-er** and **-ir** verbs.

hablar – habl- hablando                      comer – com- comiendo                      vivir – viv- viviendo

Some **-er** and **-ir** verbs substitute a **y** for **i** in the participle. **Note:** the stem of these verbs ends in a vowel.

leer – le- leyendo;                      creer – cre- creyendo;                      traer – tra- trayendo

The present participle of **-ir** verbs which have an **e -> i** and **o -> u** stem change in the preterite tense show that same change in the present participle.

sentir - sintiendo	repetir - repitiendo	seguir - siguiendo	pedir - pidiendo
servir - sirviendo	preferir - prefiriendo	dormir - durmiendo	morir - muriendo

Some verbs are irregular:    venir - viniendo                      decir - diciendo                      poder - pudiendo

The present participle of the verb **ir** is **yendo**.

**The present progressive:** *Yo hablo* in Spanish can be translated into English as *I talk, I do talk or I am talking*. Since one of the translations of *Yo hablo* is *I am talking*, why do we even need the present progressive? The answer is to give a more graphic picture of an action in progress at a given moment. It makes the "presentness" more vivid.

¿Qué haces? What are you doing?	¿Qué <b>estás haciendo</b> ? What <i>are</i> you doing ?
L <u>l</u> ueve.* It's raining.	<b>Está lloviendo</b> . It is raining. (emphasizes that it is happening now)
N <u>l</u> eva.* It's snowing.	<b>Está nevando</b> . It is snowing. (emphasizes that it is happening now)
Salimos ahora. We are leaving now.	<b>Estamos saliendo</b> ahora. We are leaving now. (walking out the door.)
Ellos llegan ahora. They are arriving.	<b>Están llegando</b> . They are arriving. (coming in the house)
Hablo por teléfono. I'm talking on the phone.	<b>Estoy hablando</b> por teléfono. I'm talking on the phone. (Emphasis on now, so don't bother me.)

**\*Note: These verbs are stem changing in the present tense, but the gerund is formed from the infinitive – no stem change.**