

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 **estás haciendo**? What are you *doing*?

Llueve.* It's raining.

Está lloviendo. It is raining. (emphasizes that it is happening now)

Nieva.* It's snowing.

Está nevando. It is snowing. (emphasizes that it is happening now)

Salimos ahora. We are leaving now.

Estamos saliendo ahora. We are leaving now. (walking out the door.)

Ellos llegan ahora. They are arriving.

Están llegando. They are arriving. (coming in the house)

Habla por teléfono. I'm talking on the phone.

Estoy hablando 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.