

Topic: The Present Progressive (Continuous) Tense

A present progressive verb is a continuing action. You use the present progressive tense to talk about actions in the present, or things that are still going on or happening now.

Form the present progressive tense like this:

am + present participle

is + present participle

are + present participle

The present participle is the form of a verb ending with “ing”.

For example,

show + ing = showing

come + ing = coming

You have to double the last letter of some verbs before you add “ing”.

For example,

get + ing = getting

rob + ing = robbing

nod + ing = nodding

stop + ing = stopping

jog + ing = jogging

swim + ing = swimming

Notice that the verbs above are all short verbs of just one syllable. They all end with a consonant such as b, d, g, m, p, t and have only one vowel before the consonant.

If a verb ends in “e”, you usually have to drop the “e” before you add “ing”.

For example,

chase + ing = chasing

cycle + ing = cycling

drive + ing = driving

smile + ing = smiling

To form the present progressive tense, use am, is and are as helping verbs or auxiliary verbs.

For example,

I'm **playing** chess with my friend.

She's **riding** a horse.

He's **taking** a walk in the park.

The man's **counting** the money.

They **are practicing** horse riding.

They **are still sleeping**.

Use the present progressive tense to talk about things you have planned to do, or things that are going to happen in the future.

For example,



When **are** you **taking** me to the zoo?



We **are having** a barbecue later this evening.

We **are going** camping tomorrow.

I'm **starting** piano lessons soon.

Where **are** you **going** for your vacation?

What **are** we **eating** for dinner?

HAVE and HAS

The verbs **have** and **has** are used to say what people own or possess. They are also used to talk about things that people do or get. These words are the simple present tense of the verb have.



We **have** breakfast at 7:00 A.M.



Peter **has** a sore knee.



Gary often **has** rice for dinner.
Have some of my lunch, if you like.

Learn these contractions:

I have = I've

You have = You've

He has = He's

She has = She's

It has = It's

We have = We've

They have = They've

Have not = Haven't

Has not = Hasn't

Check your progress

Fill in the blanks with the present progressive tense of the verbs in parentheses.

1. They _____ the roller-coaster ride. (enjoy)
2. Jill _____ her hair. (wash)
3. It _____ dark. (get)
4. The dentist _____ Sue's teeth. (examine)
5. The men _____ very hard in the sun. (work)
6. What _____ the theater _____ today? (show)

Answers

1. They **are enjoying** the roller-coaster ride. (enjoy)
2. Jack **is washing** his hair. (wash)
3. It **is getting** dark. (get)
4. The dentist **is examining** Sue's teeth. (examine)
5. The men **are working** very hard in the sun. (work)
6. What **is** the theater **showing** today? (show)