

The Present Progressive; Demonstrative Pronouns

I. The Present Progressive

- The present progressive tense is used to express that an action is happening right at the moment of speech. This tense is made up of the present-tense forms of *estar* followed by the present participle (gerund). In English, the present participle is the *-ing* form of the verb (*speaking, eating, living*).

- To form the present participle of *-ar* verbs, the ending *-ando* is added to the stem:

hablar	>	hablando	almorzar	>	almorzando
cantar	>	cantando	nevar	>	nevando
empezar	>	empezando			

—¿Los chicos *están estudiando* ahora?
—No, *están almorzando* todavía.

“Are the kids studying now?”
“No, they’re still having lunch.”

- To form the present participle of *-er* and *-ir* verbs, the ending *-iendo* is added to the stem:

comer	>	comiendo	volver	>	volviendo
beber	>	bebiendo	llover	>	lloviendo
hacer	>	haciendo	escribir	>	escribiendo
ver	>	viendo	salir	>	saliendo

—¿Tere *está corriendo* en este momento?
—Ya no. *Está haciendo* la cena ahora.

“Is Tere running at this moment?”
“Not any more. She’s making dinner now.”

- When the stem of an *-er* or *-ir* verb ends in a vowel, the present participle is formed by adding *-yendo*, not *-iendo*:

leer	>	leyendo	oír	>	oyendo
traer	>	trayendo	caer	>	cayendo
creer	>	creyendo			

Notes:

1. The form of the present participle never changes; it is the same for all subjects. Only the forms of the verb *estar* change to agree with the subject: *estoy viendo, estamos viendo*.

- dormir → durmiendo
- morir → muriendo
- decir → diciendo
- servir → sirviendo
- pedir → pidiendo