

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)
Hablo 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.**