

Present Progressive Tense



I can express what is going on RIGHT NOW.

As you know, the present indicative (simple present tense) in Spanish expresses three ideas:



Lavamos el coche. = We wash the car.
We do wash the car.
We are washing the car.

These are your -ar/-er/-ir verbs, stem changing verbs, reflexive verbs, etc.--- the conjugations we've been doing since last year.

However, if you wish to emphasize that an action is going on right now, the present progressive is used. It emphasizes the idea that the action is in progress.

The present progressive is a two-part verb tense. It is formed by:

ESTAR		Present Participle
estoy	+	-ando
estás		-iendo
está		(-yendo)
estamos		
estáis		
están		

To form the present participle, drop the -ar, -er, -ir from the infinitive and add:

- -ando (for an -AR verb)
- -iendo (for an -ER or -IR verb)

ex.	habl/ar	hablando	Estoy hablando. = I am talking.
	com/er	comiendo	Están comiendo. = They are eating.
	escrib/ir	escribiendo	Está escribiendo. = He is writing.

*right now -
action is in
progress*

The present progressive tense has ONE translation only... -ing.

Special notes

I. Stem-changing verbs in the present progressive:

- -AR & -ER verbs have NO stem-change
- -IR verbs have a different kind of stem-change

ex. Está jugando al baloncesto.

ex. Estás durmiendo. (o → u)

II. For ER/IR verbs with a stem ending in a vowel... add -yendo

ex.	le/er	leyendo
	constru/ir	construyendo
	ca/er	cayendo



English is NOT like Spanish

The -ing form is overused in English.

- *We can say "I am studying tomorrow."*
- *This puts a present tense verb together with a future time expression. This does NOT happen in Spanish.*
- *The present progressive (-ing form) is used ONLY for actions in progress.*
- *IR + A + INF (or the future tense, which you will learn later) is used for future actions.*