

## Present progressive

**In English** The **present progressive** is the verb tense used to talk about what is happening *right now*. It is formed by combining the verb **to be** in the present tense with the **-ing** form, or **present participle**, of the action verb.

We **are playing** videogames right now. It **is raining**.

The **present progressive** is also used to talk about what will be happening *in the near future*.

We **are getting** into town tonight. We **are leaving** tomorrow.

**A** Circle the present progressive in each sentence and then write whether it refers to what is happening *right now* or to what will be happening *in the near future*.

1. We are starting a new diet in a few days. In the near future
2. Saul is enjoying himself at the amusement park. \_\_\_\_\_
3. We are staying at home tonight. \_\_\_\_\_
4. I am coming soon, so wait for me. \_\_\_\_\_
5. My sister is reading a book in her room. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Be quiet. The students are taking a test. \_\_\_\_\_
7. We're visiting our grandparents next weekend. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Don't bother me now. I am redoing my composition. \_\_\_\_\_

**In Spanish** The **present progressive** also tells what is happening *right now*. To form it, combine a present form of **estar** with the present participle. The present participle has the **-ando** ending for **-ar** verbs and the **-iendo** ending for **-er** and **-ir** verbs, except that **-iendo** changes to **-yendo** when the verb stem ends in a vowel. Stem-changing **-ir** verbs change **o** → **u** and **e** → **i**.

cantar → cant**ando**                      perder → perdi**endo**

salir → sali**endo**                              caer → cay**endo**

dormir → durmi**endo**                      decir → dici**endo**

¿Qué estás **comiendo**?                      Estoy **almorzando** un sándwich.

The present progressive is not used to talk about what will be happening *in the near future*. Instead, the **present** or **ir a + infinitive** constructions are used.

**Vamos a llegar** a tu ciudad esta noche, pero **salimos** para Puebla mañana.

**B** Circle the **present progressive** or the **ir a + infinitive** construction in each sentence. Write whether each action is happening *right now* or *in the near future*.

1. Vamos a empezar una nueva dieta en unos días. In the near future
2. No despiertes a Rodrigo. Está durmiendo. \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESENT PROGRESSIVE**

3. Los estudiantes están haciendo un examen. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Los González van a cenar en un restaurante chino. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Voy a ir al cine esta tarde, ¿vienes conmigo? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Santiago no está en casa. Está visitando a sus abuelos. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Vamos a estudiar esta tarde, no podemos salir. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Estoy viendo la televisión. \_\_\_\_\_

**C** You're at a friend's birthday party and your mother is asking you questions on the phone, but she is guessing it all wrong. For everything that she thinks you are doing now, tell her you'll be doing that later, and vice versa.

1. ¿Van a ver una película más tarde?  
**No, mamá, la estamos viendo ahora.**  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. ¿Estás estudiando ahora?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. ¿Ustedes van a jugar a las cartas luego?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. ¿Ustedes están cenando ahora?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. ¿Tu amigo va a abrir los regalos después?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. ¿Están comiendo el pastel de cumpleaños ahora?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. ¿Van a servir la bebida luego?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**D** What is the difference in meaning between the present tense and the present progressive in Spanish? Think of sentence pairs such as:

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| a. Yo estudio español. | Estoy estudiando para el examen.          |
| b. Mi tía lee mucho.   | Mi tía está leyendo <i>Guerra y paz</i> . |
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_