



Present Progressive Tense

Tutee Lesson

STEP 1: Assessment

- What do you know about the present progressive tense?

Useful Expressions

- How do you say _____ in English?
- Could you repeat, please?
- I don't understand.

STEP 2: Theory

FORM: Conjugate the verb “work” in the present progressive tense in the chart below.

TIP	AFFIRMATIVE	NEGATIVE	YES/NO QUESTION	SHORT ANSWER
	I	I		
	You	You	you	?
	He/She/It	He/She/It	he	?
	We	We		
	They	They	they	?

TIP USE: When do you use the present progressive tense?

- Which sentence below describes an action in progress and which one describes a temporary action?

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. I am studying the present progressive tense now. | an action in progress | a temporary action |
| 2. This semester, I am taking a psychology course. | an action in progress | a temporary action |

Note

- If necessary, review the verb “be” before completing the chart.

TIP KEYWORDS: Keywords tell you what verb tense to use. What keywords are used with the present progressive tense?

Note

- Click on “TIP” for more keywords.
- If necessary, ask for a translation.

STEP 3: Controlled and Communicative Exercises

TIP

EXERCISE 1: Point to the keywords and fill in the blanks with the correct form of the present progressive tense. Then, answer the questions. If necessary, click on the "**TIP**" for the **Present Progressive Spelling Rules**.

1. Paula (**study**) _____ for her French exam at the moment.

- What exam are you studying for today?

2. Audrey (**swim**) _____ today.

- Are you going swimming later today?

3. This semester I (**take**) _____ eight courses.

- How many courses are you taking this semester?

4. I (**die**) _____ to see Beyoncé in concert this summer.

- What musician or band are you dying to see?

EXERCISE 2: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate auxiliary. Then, answer the questions with a short answer (e.g., No, I'm not).

1. your French teacher giving you an exam this week?
2. you looking forward to finishing CEGEP?
3. you going shopping later?

EXERCISE 3: Answer the questions related to the sentences in bold.

• **Mariam is playing a lot of sports these days.**

1. What is the main verb?
2. What is the auxiliary?
3. Are you playing a lot of sports these days?

• **Mariam is a good listener.**

4. What is the main verb?
5. What is the auxiliary?
6. Are you a good listener?



Note

This is a good exercise to show you that the verb “be” can also be an auxiliary and to prepare you to form questions in the present progressive tense.

EXERCISE 4: Place the words under the appropriate heading to form questions in the present progressive tense. Then, answer the questions that follow.

- a. are studying Spanish you why
b. working this he summer is

Question Word(s)	Auxiliary	Subject	Main Verb	Rest of Sentence
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a.

b. xxxxx

1. Is the present progressive tense an auxiliary question or a “be” question? Why?
2. What auxiliaries are used with the present progressive tense?
3. Is question “a” an information question or a yes/no question? Why?

TIP

EXERCISE 5: Make questions to go with the answers in **bold**. If necessary, click on "**TIP**" for the **Step-by-Step Question Formation Chart**.

1.

?

No, Alexis isn't having a bad day.

- Ask me if I am having a bad day.

2.

?

He is going to this CEGEP **because it is close to his home**.

- Ask me why I am going to this CEGEP.

3.

?

They are **looking for Easter eggs**.

- Ask me what I am doing later.



Vocabulary Review

- What new words have you learned so far today?

STEP 4: Production task

EXERCISE 6: Play Find the Present Progressive Differences. Assign a different picture to each person. Then, take turns making a statement about something that is happening in your picture and then asking a question to find out if the same action is happening in the other person's picture

(e.g., "A guy is eating a pizza." "Is a guy eating a pizza in your picture?").

Don't cheat by looking at the other person's picture! Stop the game when you have found 10 differences.

Picture A



Picture B



Picture A	Picture B
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.
8.	8.
9.	9.
10.	10.

STEP 5: Final Review

- What new words did you learn today?
- Conjugate the verb “study” orally in the present progressive tense using the following chart.

AFFIRMATIVE	NEGATIVE	YES/NO QUESTION	SHORT ANSWER
I	You	he	? No,

- When do you use the present progressive?
- What keywords do you use with the present progressive?

Important

- Write down the words you learned today and study them.

TUTORING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Tutorat par les pairs en anglais langue seconde



Tips

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2022

Québec 

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Present Progressive Tense – Form

Auxiliaries: am/are/is

Affirmative			Negative			Yes/No Question			Short Answer		
I	am		I	m' not		Am	I	verb-ing	Yes,	you	are
You	are		You	aren't		Are	you	working?	No,	I'm	not
She	is	working?	She	isn't	working?	Is	she	working?	Yes,	she	is
We	are		We	aren't		Are	we		Yes	you	are
You	are		You	aren't		Are	you		No,	we	aren't
They	are		They	aren't		Are	they		Yes,	they	are

TIP

1. I am studying the present progressive tense now. an action in progress a temporary action
2. This semester, I am taking a psychology course. an action in progress a temporary action

Note

If necessary, review the verb "be" before completing the chart.

TIP

KEYWORDS: Keywords tell you what verb tense to use. What keywords are used with the present progressive tense?

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They	They	they	Yes,

TIP

Present Progressive – Use	
a. an action that is happening now	The students are listening to the teacher now.
b. a temporary action	I am eating at the cafeteria today.

TIP

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USE: When do you use the present progressive tense?

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TIP

Present Progressive Tense – Keywords		
now right now at the moment	today currently	this week this semester these days

STEP 3: Controlled and Communicative Exercises

TIP



Present Progressive Tense – Spelling

Rules.

a. visit → visiting	Add ing to most verbs.
b. write → writing	If the verb ends in e , remove the e and add ing .
c. die → dying	If a verb ends in ie change the ie to y and add ing .
d. stop → stopping exception snow → snowing	If the verb is one syllable and ends in consonant- vowel- consonant double last consonant and add ing . Except if the verb ends in x or w .
e. begin → beginning (stress on last syllable)	If a verb is more than one syllable and ends in consonant- vowel- consonant and the stress is on the last syllable, double the last consonant.
f. listen → listening (no stress on last syllable)	Don't double the consonant of a multi-syllable word if the last syllable is not stressed , just add ing .

- What musician or band are you dying to see?



Step by Step Question Formation Chart

TIP

Step by Step Questions

1. Is it an **auxiliary** question or a **be** question?
 - Look at the **main verb in the answer** to find out.
2. What is the verb tense?
3. Is it a **yes/no** question or an **information** question?
 - Now, use the appropriate chart to help you.

Auxiliary Questions: The main verb in the answer is NOT the verb "be."
(e.g., He **likes** dogs.)

Be Questions: The main verb in the answer is "be."
(e.g., Yes, he **is** at home.)

Auxiliary Questions					
Tense	Question	Auxiliary	Subject	Verb	Rest of Sentence
Simple Present		do does		base form (no - s, ed, etc.)	
Present Progressive		am are is		verb- <i>ing</i>	
Simple Past		did		base form	
Future		will am is are		base form going to +base form	
Modals		can could may should must		base form	

Be Questions				
Tense	Question	Verb <i>be</i>	Subject	Rest of Sentence
Simple Present		am are is		
Simple Past		was were		

Be	
Present	Past
I am	I was
You are	You were
She/He/It is	She/He/It was
We are	We were
They are	They were

Do	
Present	
I	do
You	do
He/She/It	does
We	do
They	do