

The present progressive tense

The **present progressive tense** shows that the action of a sentence is still happening in the present. The verb in a present progressive sentence is made up of an **auxiliary + main verb + -ing**.

Example: Mandla is playing with Sibusisu.

auxiliary

main verb + -ing

Note that the auxiliary in the present continuous tense is *to be*. The table below shows how this verb needs to agree with the subject in the sentence.

I <i>am</i> playing.	We <i>are</i> playing.
You <i>are</i> playing.	You <i>are</i> playing.
Mandla <i>is</i> playing. He/She/It <i>is</i> playing.	They <i>are</i> playing.

★ Help

The present progressive tense is also known as the *continuous present tense*.

- Underline the present progressive tense verbs and circle the auxiliary verbs.
 - Richard is walking to school.
 - Pulani and Sizwe are doing their homework.
 - Mr Mulder is drinking his coffee.
 - I am watering the garden.
 - Xolisa is brushing her hair.
 - My sister and I are watching television.
 - You are talking on the telephone.
 - It is raining and the wind is blowing hard.

- Change the verb in brackets so that each sentence is in present progressive tense. The first one has been done for you.

- The supporters (cheer) are cheering for their team.
- Mrs Mabena (sew) _____ a new curtain.
- Those people (have) _____ a party.
- Mr Fourie (mend) _____ his fence.



Turn to page 30 for notes on *subject-verb agreement*.

- e) That lady (feed) _____ her baby.
f) The lions (yawn) _____ in the sun.
g) You (train) _____ for the race.
h) My friends (laugh) _____ and (clap) _____ at the jokes.

3. Read the following paragraph and circle the correct auxiliaries for each present progressive verb.

It is spring time. The sun (is/are) rising earlier each day. The temperatures (is/are) warming up and soon it will be warm every day. Next week we (is/are) going on a school outing to the beach. I (is/am) looking forward to the day. Our teachers (is/are) coming with us.

4. Write out the following paragraph in the present progressive tense:

The stars (twinkle) in the night sky. We (look) up and (try) to count them. The moon (shines) so brightly and it (makes) a reflection on the water.

