## Grammar

## 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.

main verb + -ing

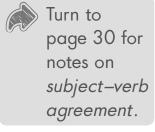
Note that the auxiliary in the present continuous tense is *to be*. The table below shows how this verb needs to agree with the subject in the sentence.

I am 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.



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

- 1. Underline the present progressive tense verbs and circle the auxiliary verbs.
  - a) Richard is walking to school.
  - b) Pulani and Sizwe are doing their homework.
  - c) Mr Mulder is drinking his coffee.
  - d) I am watering the garden.
  - e) Xolisa is brushing her hair.
  - f) My sister and I are watching television.
  - g) You are talking on the telephone.
  - h) It is raining and the wind is blowing hard.
- 2. Change the verb in brackets so that each sentence is in present progressive tense. The first one has been done for you.
  - a) The supporters (cheer) are cheering for their team.
  - b) Mrs Mabena (sew) \_\_\_\_\_ a new curtain.
  - c) Those people (have) \_\_\_\_\_ a party.
  - d) Mr Fourie (mend) \_\_\_\_\_ his fence.





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

