

## 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 verb + main verb + *-ing*.

**Example:** Bradley is running in the race.

auxiliary verb

main verb + *-ing*

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

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

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

- Underline the present progressive tense verbs in these sentences. Circle the auxiliary verb. The first one has been done for you.
  - Belinda (is) going to the library.
  - They are doing their homework.
  - Mrs Julius is drinking her tea.
  - I am watering the plants.
  - My mother is brushing her hair.
  - My family is watching television.
  - You are speaking on the telephone.
  - The wind is blowing hard.
- Change the verb in brackets so that each sentence below is in the present progressive tense.
  - Mrs Mabena (knit) \_\_\_\_\_ a scarf.
  - Our neighbours (play) \_\_\_\_\_ loud music.
  - My father (fix) \_\_\_\_\_ the car.
  - Toko (laugh) \_\_\_\_\_ at the joke.
  - I (work) \_\_\_\_\_ hard.



### Remember

Remember the subject-verb agreement when you write sentences in the present progressive tense.

## The past progressive tense

The **past progressive tense** shows that an action was taking place in the past and that the action continued to happen. The verb in a past progressive sentence is made up of an auxiliary verb + main verb + *-ing*.

**Example:** Martha was writing in her diary.

auxiliary verb

main verb + *-ing*

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

<u>I</u> was dancing.	<u>We</u> were dancing.
<u>You</u> were dancing.	<u>You</u> were dancing.
<u>Mandla</u> was dancing. He/She/It was dancing.	<u>They</u> were dancing.

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

1. Change the verb in brackets so that each sentence below is in the past progressive tense. The first one has been done for you.
  - a) My mother (fold) was folding the clothes.
  - b) I (look) \_\_\_\_\_ for my umbrella.
  - c) Lerato (clean) \_\_\_\_\_ her room.
  - d) Sam and I (paint) \_\_\_\_\_ the gate.
  - e) Kagiso (go) \_\_\_\_\_ to church.
  - f) We (walk) \_\_\_\_\_ home.
  - g) They (sing) \_\_\_\_\_ badly.
  - h) She (reading) \_\_\_\_\_ her book.
2. Write these sentences in the past progressive tense.
  - a) I wash the dog.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Leo pushes the trolley.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c) Our teacher sits at her desk.  
\_\_\_\_\_



### Remember

Remember the subject-verb agreement when you write sentences in the present and past progressive tenses.



Turn to page 30 for more about *subject-verb agreement*.