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.

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.

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

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

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



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.

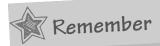
| auxiliary verb | main verb + -ing

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.
You were dancing.	You were dancing.
Mandla was dancing. He/She/It was dancing.	They were dancing.

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

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

