

El Presente Progresivo (-ing words)

Verbs like “walking,” “eating,” or “studying” are formed in Spanish by removing the last two letters of the infinitive (ar, er, or ir) and adding one of the following two endings:

For -ar verbs, add -ando

hablar : hablando

estudiar : estudiando

For -er or -ir verbs, add -iendo

comer : comiendo

vivir : viviendo

These forms are then used with the verb “estar” (estoy, estás, está, estamos, estáis, están) to form the present progressive (I am eating, You are talking, etc.)

Unlike the present progressive in English, the Spanish present progressive (hablando, comiendo) is only used to emphasize that *the action is taking place at the very time in question*, whereas English often refers to a general action that has reference to the present. For example, *estoy estudiando* in Spanish literally means that “I am studying at this moment.” where it would be appropriate in English to state “I am studying Spanish” or “I am taking a Spanish class” even though the “studying” or “taking” is not occurring at that exact moment.

To express the concept of something which has reference to the present but is not necessarily being carried out in the exact moment, the present tense is used: Estudio español este mes (I am studying Spanish this month).

Another difference between English and Spanish is that Spanish only uses the ando/iendo forms with *estar* and occasionally *ir*, *venir*, *andar*, *continuar* and *seguir*. For all other forms, the infinitive is used: I like *studying* = me gusta *estudiar*.

Irregular present participles:

The following verbs have irregular present participles. In most cases, it is simply a one-letter change made to make pronunciation easier.

dormir: durmiendo

pedir: pidiendo

creer: creyendo

morir: muriendo

distribuir: distribuyendo

leer: leyendo

sentir: sintiendo

venir: viniendo

oír: oyendo

preferir: prefiriendo

construir: construyendo

decir: diciendo

For more practice on this topic, please visit:

<http://www.conjuguemos.com> (Spanish verb exercise #20)

<http://www.studyspanish.com/lessons/presprog.htm>

http://www.colby.edu/~bknelson/exercises/pres_prog.html