Present progressive rules

1. Add ing to most verbs. Ex. play > play**ing**, cry > cry**ing**, bark > bark**ing**
2. For verbs that end in e, remove the e and add ing. Ex: slide > slid**ing**, ride > rid**ing**
3. For verbs that end in ie, change the ie to y and add ing. Ex: die > dy**ing**, tie > ty**ing**
4. For a verb whose last syllable is written with a consonant-vowel-consonant and is stressed, double the last letter before adding ing. Ex: beg > beg**ging**, begin > begin**ning**. However: enter > enter**ing** (last syllable is not stressed)

Negatives in the Present Progressive (Continuous)

Spelling Tip

When shortening a form of be and negative, just remove the o in not and add an apostrophe (‘)  
is not > is**n’t**  
are not > are**n’t**

The negative in the present progressive tense is created using am not, is not or are not together with the ing form (present participle) of the verb.

| **Subject** | **A form of be + Verbing (Present Participle)** | **Rest of Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I | am taking | my final exam tomorrow |
| He / She / It | is sweeping | the floor at the moment |
| You / We / They | are giving | me a headache |

| **Subject** | **A form of be + Verbing** | **Rest of Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I | am not working | on that project now |
| He / She / It | isn’t sleeping | at the moment |
| You / We / They | aren’t running | in the marathon tomorrow |

Note: In general, use these contractions in the negative: isn’t, aren’t. Am not cannot be shortened, but you can say **I’m not**. Save the long forms for when you want to create emphasis.

1. **I’m not** listen**ing** to you.
2. Roger **isn’t** eat**ing** with us tonight.
3. The Smiths **aren’t** go**ing** to France this year. They’re going to Thailand.
4. He **is not** com**ing** with me dressed like that!

Yes/No Questions in the Present Progressive (Continuous)

To ask a question that will be answered with either a yes or no, start with Am, Is or Are, then choose your subject (the person or thing doing the action), followed by the **ing** (present participle) form of the verb and then the rest of your question.

| **A Form of be** | **Subject** | **Verbing** | **Rest of Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Am | I | making | myself clear |
| Is | he / she / it | shaking | right now |
| Are | you / we / they | buying | steaks for dinner tomorrow |

1. **Am** I talk**ing** too much?
2. **Is** that your dog bark**ing**?
3. **Are** you participat**ing** in the competition next week?

Wh-Questions in the Present Progressive

Wh- questions are questions that require more information in their answers. Typical wh- words are what, where, when, which, why, who, how, how many, how much.

To create a wh-question, start with the wh-word, then add am, is or are, then the subject (a person or thing that is doing the action), followed by the ing ( present participle) form of the verb and only then add the rest of the sentence.

| **Wh Word** | **A form of be** | **Subject** | **Verbing** | **Rest of Sentence** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Who | am | I | meeting | with today |
| What | is | he / she / it | doing | right now |
| When | are | you / we / they | choosing | the colors for the room |

1. Which route **are** you tak**ing** to the conference this week?
2. Why **is** she bleed**ing**?
3. Who **am** I send**ing** to the meeting?