

# How do we make the Present Continuous Tense?

The structure of the present continuous tense is:

subject + auxiliary verb + main verb  
                   be                  base + ing

Look at these examples:

	subject	auxiliary verb		main verb	
+	I	am		speaking	to you.
+	You	are		reading	this.
-	She	is	not	staying	in London.
-	We	are	not	playing	football.
?	Is	he		watching	TV?
?	Are	they		waiting	for John?

# How do we spell the Present Continuous Tense?

We make the present continuous tense by adding -ing to the base verb. Normally it's simple - we just add -ing. But sometimes we have to change the word a little. Perhaps we double the last letter, or we drop a letter. Here are the rules to help you know how to spell the present continuous tense.

	Just add <b>-ing</b> to the base verb:		
<b>Basic rule</b>	work	>	working
	play	>	playing
	assist	>	assisting
	see	>	seeing

	be	>	being
<b>Exception 1</b>	<p>If the base verb ends in <b>consonant + stressed vowel + consonant</b>, double the last letter:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <span style="margin-right: 100px;"><b>s</b></span> <span style="margin-right: 100px;"><b>t</b></span> <span style="margin-right: 100px;"><b>o</b></span> <span><b>p</b></span> </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <span style="margin-right: 100px;">consonant</span> <span style="margin-right: 100px;">stressed vowel</span> <span>consonant</span> </p> <p>(vowels = a, e, i, o, u)</p>		
	stop	>	stopping
	run	>	running
	begin	>	beginning
	<i>Note that this exception does <b>not</b> apply when the last syllable of the base verb is not stressed:</i>		
	open	>	opening
<b>Exception 2</b>	If the base verb ends in <b>ie</b> , change the <b>ie</b> to <b>y</b> :		
	lie	>	lying
	die	>	dying
<b>Exception 3</b>	If the base verb ends in <b>vowel + consonant + e</b> , omit the <b>e</b> :		
	come	>	coming
	mistake	>	mistaking