

1.4e Verbs - Present Participle

key words: verb, tense, present participle, progressive, aspect

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.1d Form and use regular and irregular verbs. <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/3/1/d>

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.1e Form and use the simple (e.g., *I walked; I walk; I will walk*) verb tenses. <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/3/1/e>

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.1b Form and use the progressive (e.g., *I was walking; I am walking; I will be walking*) verb tenses. <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/4/1/b>

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.1b Form and use the perfect (e.g., *I had walked; I have walked; I will have walked*) verb tenses. <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/5/1/b>

The **present participle** form is the *-ing* form of the verb. In fact, you can call it that, if you want. These occur with a form of *be*: *am, is, are, was, or were*.

The koala **is eating** the eucalyptus.

The kangaroos **were hopping** over the fence.

A form of the auxiliary verb *be* plus the present participle together is called the **progressive aspect** of a verb.

Consider how the present tense is different from the present participle, when used to express progressive aspect:

She sings.	present tense
She is singing.	progressive aspect (using present participle)

What's the difference in meaning? When would you use one and when would you use the other? The present tense in English is actually used to describe things that are NOT happening right now, which seems kind of strange, doesn't it?

The present tense can actually be used to describe events in the future:

My aunt catches the train tomorrow at noon.

Or things that happen regularly or habitually:

She runs.
We eat beans.

But when something is happening right now or is ongoing, we use the progressive aspect.

My aunt **is catching** a train right now.
She **is running**.
We **are eating** beans.

The form of the progressive with a present tense form of *be*: *am*, *is*, or *are* is called the **present progressive**. The form of the progressive with a past tense form of *be*: *was* or *were* is called the **past progressive**.

Find examples of the present tense in a book or other text.

Find examples of progressive aspect (with a present participle/*-ing* form).

Write them down and discuss your findings.