Past Progressive
El pasado progresivo

↗ The past progressive tense is a compound tense used to talk about ongoing action in the past that uses an auxiliary verb in the **imperfect tense** combined with the present participle of a second verb.

⊡ The auxiliary verb is the first verb in the tense that precedes (goes before) the participle. The most common auxiliary verb is *estar.* Some other auxiliary verbs used in the past progressive are: *andar, seguir, ir* and *venir.*

estar (imperfecto) + participio presente (-ando o –iendo)

↗ To illustrate this, think of the equivalent to the past progressive in English:

to be (past tense) + the –ing form of a verb

Examples:

I <u>was</u> eat<u>ing</u>.   We <u>were</u> study<u>ing</u>.
verb to be + -ing form   verb to be   +   -ing form

↗ It is important to remember that the progressive tenses are used much more frequently in English than in Spanish. This tense is often used to *stress* or *exaggerate* the ongoing action in the past.

✦ **Steps to form the past progressive tense**:

1. Conjugate the auxiliary verb *estar* into the **imperfect** tense.

estar – *to be*	
yo **estaba**	nosotros **estábamos**
tú **estabas**	vosotros **estabais**
él/ella/usted **estaba**	ellos/ellas/ustedes **estaban**

2. Form the **present participle**:
   a. Identify the infinitive form of the second verb that will form the present participle.
   b. Drop the –AR, -ER, or –IR ending.
   c. Add the appropriate participle ending that corresponds to the infinitive ending of the verb (-*ando* or –*iendo*).

-AR verbs	-ER / -IR verbs
-ando	-iendo

Examples: cant<u>ar</u> ✳ cant**ando**   salt<u>ar</u> ✳ salt**ando**
               com<u>er</u> ✳ com**iendo**   escrib<u>ir</u> ✳ escrib**iendo**
               corr<u>er</u> ✳ corr**iendo**   habl<u>ar</u> ✳ habl**ando**

3. Combine the auxiliary verb in the **imperfect** tense with the present participle.

Verbo	Participio	Pasado progresivo	
salt**ar** – to jump	salt**ando**	estaba saltando – *I was jumping* estabas saltando – *You were jumping* estaba saltando – *He/she was jumping*	estábamos saltando – *We were jumping* estabais saltando – *You (pl.) were jumping* estaban saltando – *They were jumping*
com**er** – to eat	com**iendo**	estaba comiendo – *I was eating* estabas comiendo – *You were eating* estaba comiendo – *He/she was eating*	estábamos comiendo – *We were eating* estabais comiendo – *You (pl.) were eating* estaban comiendo – *They were eating*
escrib**ir** – to write	escri**biendo**	estaba escribiendo – *I was writing* estabas escribiendo – *You were writing* estaba escribiendo – *He/she was writing*	estábamos escribiendo – *We were writing* estabais escribiendo – *You (pl.) were writing* estaban escribiendo – *They were writing*

➚ It is important to note that all -AR and -ER verbs are regular when forming the present participle. Only **some –IR stem changing** verbs have irregular participles.

➚ **Steps to form the present participle of -IR stem changing verbs:**
1. The vowel **e** in the stem changes to **i, e > i**
   The vowel **o** in the stem changes to **u, o > u**
2. Add -*iendo* to the stem of the verb.

   Examples: p**e**dir ✳ p**i**diendo
                      s**e**rvir ✳ s**i**rviendo
                      s**e**guir ✳ s**i**guiendo
                      d**e**cir ✳ d**i**ciendo
                      m**o**rir ✳ m**u**riendo
                      d**o**rmir ✳ d**u**rmiendo

➚ For pronunciation reasons, some verbs experience a **spelling change** involving the letter **y**.

    o   This change occurs because any time there is an unaccented letter *i* between two vowels, it changes to a **y**.

        ⊡   If the regular steps to forming the past participle were followed for the verb *influir,* the participle would look like this: infl**uie**ndo. However, because there is an unaccented *i* between two vowels (**u** and **e**) the *i* changes to a **y**, and **the correct participle is** ✳ **influ*y*endo.**

            Other examples of verbs like this: caer ✳ ca**y**endo
                                         oír ✳ o**y**endo
                                         leer ✳ le**y**endo