GRAMMAR

Progressive verb tenses

Name _____ Date _____

I can use was, am and will be with -ing verbs to show an action that keeps going.

1 The rule

A progressive verb shows an action that keeps going. It uses am, is, are, was, were or will be, plus a verb that ends in -ing.

I **was reading**. I **am reading**. I **will be reading**.

2 Look and say



was baking
Mom was baking.



were swimming
We were swimming.



am reading
I am reading.



is raining
It is raining.



are playing
They are playing.



is growing
The plant is growing.



will be flying
We will be flying.



will be sleeping
I will be sleeping.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Sort the words

Name _____ Date _____

Is the action in the past, happening now, or in the future? Sort each verb.

1 Word bank

will be talking | was sleeping | will be eating

were running | were talking | are talking

will be running | is running | was eating

am eating | will be sleeping | is sleeping

past	now	future

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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GRAMMAR · PROGRESSIVE VERB TENSES

Find it in a sentence

Name _____ Date _____

Read each sentence. Circle the progressive verb (both words, or all three).

1. We were walking to school.
2. The baby is sleeping now.
3. I will be visiting Grandma.
4. The dogs were barking loudly.
5. She is painting a picture.
6. They will be playing soccer.
7. I am writing a story.
8. It was snowing all night.

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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Write it

Name _____ Date _____

Write the verb in ( ) as a progressive verb. Use the clue: yesterday, now or tomorrow.

1. (run) Now I _____ .

2. (eat) Yesterday we _____ .

3. (swim) Tomorrow I _____ .

4. (rain) Now it _____ .

5. (read) Yesterday Sam _____ .

6. (play) Tomorrow they _____ .

How did I do? ☆ ☆ ☆

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FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

Answer key: progressive verb tenses

1 Sort the words

past: was eating, were running, were talking, was sleeping

now: am eating, is running, are talking, is sleeping

future: will be eating, will be running, will be talking, will be sleeping

2 Find it in a sentence

1. were walking 2. is sleeping 3. will be visiting 4. were barking 5. is painting 6. will be playing 7. am writing 8. was snowing

3 Write it

1. am running 2. were eating 3. will be swimming 4. is raining 5. was reading 6. will be playing

4 Teaching tip

Draw a timeline on the board: yesterday, now, tomorrow. Act out an action, such as walking in place, and have children describe it at each point: I was walking, I am walking, I will be walking.

Watch for: Leaving out the helping verb, as in "I walking." A progressive verb always has two parts: a helping verb (am, is, are, was, were, will be) and an -ing verb.

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