

## 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.

|            |                                                                                                  |           |                |           |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| Basic rule | Just add <b>-ing</b> to the base verb:                                                           |           |                |           |
|            | work                                                                                             | →         | working        |           |
|            | play                                                                                             | →         | playing        |           |
|            | assist                                                                                           | →         | assisting      |           |
|            | see                                                                                              | →         | seeing         |           |
|            | be                                                                                               | →         | being          |           |
| Exception  | If the base verb ends in <b>consonant + stressed vowel + consonant</b> , double the last letter: |           |                |           |
|            | s                                                                                                | t         | o              | p         |
|            |                                                                                                  | consonant | stressed vowel | consonant |

|                  |                                                                                                                |   |           |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------|
|                  | vowels = a, e, i, o, u                                                                                         |   |           |
|                  | stop <u> </u>                                                                                                  | → | stopping  |
|                  | ru <u> </u> n                                                                                                  | → | running   |
|                  | be <u> </u> gin                                                                                                | → | beginning |
|                  | <i>Note that this exception does <b>not</b> apply when the last syllable of the base verb is not stressed:</i> |   |           |
|                  | ope <u> </u> n                                                                                                 | → | opening   |
| <b>Exception</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</b> | If the base verb ends in <b>vowel + consonant + e</b> , omit the <b>e</b> :                                    |   |           |
|                  | come                                                                                                           | → | coming    |

|  |         |   |           |
|--|---------|---|-----------|
|  | mistake | → | mistaking |
|--|---------|---|-----------|