



Progressing into the present

CAPS Statement

Language structures and conventions

Working with words and sentences:

Builds on understanding and use of present progressive

Note

The present progressive tells us that we are **doing** something right now.

We are **progressing** with the action, so the present participle **-ing** is always used.

The action word always ends with **-ing** in the present progressive.

Example

dive becomes **diving**

swim becomes **swimming**

watch becomes **watching**

Example

Only these **helping verbs** come before the **action (ending with -ing)**: **am, is or are**. They tell us if the subject is singular or plural in the present tense.

I **am diving**. My friend **is swimming**.

The spectators **are watching**.

There are three subjects in this example: I, my friend and the spectator.

Activity 1

Read the instructions below. The subject of each instruction is in brackets at the end of the sentence. With the information provided, change each instruction into the present progressive.

Example

Go to school. (Themba)

Themba is going to school.

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Activity 3

Answer this question: 'What is each person doing?' Use the vocabulary box below to help you answer the question. Complete the sentences under each action.

Example

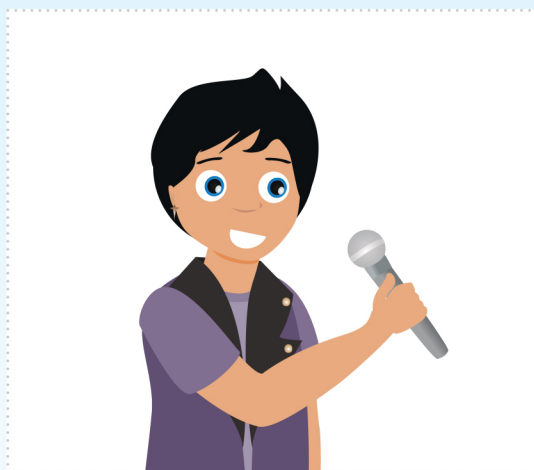
The boy is **jumping** over the wall.



~~jump~~ chop write sing

point ride run

①



The boy _____.

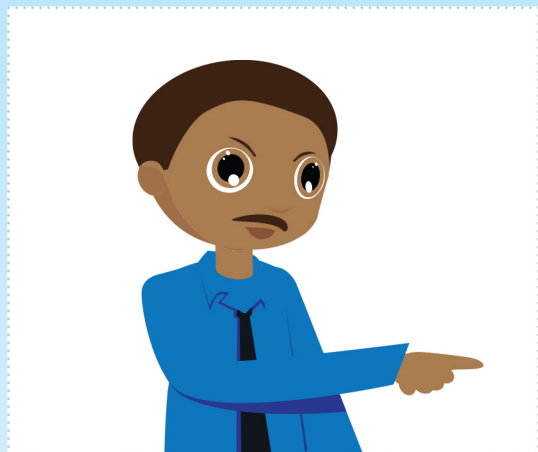
②



The man _____.



3



The father _____.

4



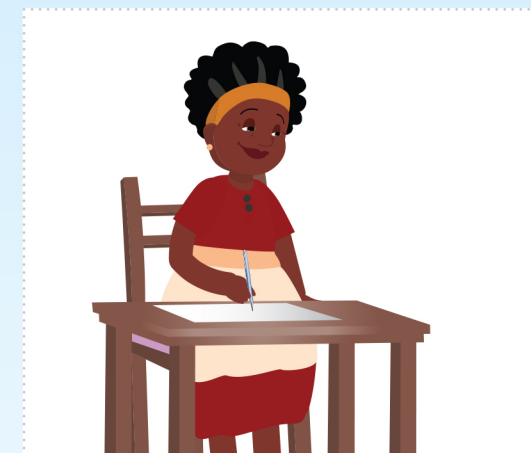
The girl _____.

5



My Sister _____.

6



Gogo _____.

Teacher Tip

Recap subject-verb agreement. It is important that learners understand that **am**, **is** and **are** are the only auxiliary verbs (helping verbs) – in the present progressive tense. They let us know if the subject is singular or plural. They tell us the tense. The –ing words (present participles) added to these auxiliary verbs become the present progressive. For example: 'am singing'. We know the subject will be 'I' because of the 'am'. Together 'am singing' make up the finite verb. You will need to remind learners about adding –ing to the infinitive form of the verb. When the word ends in a silent –e, the silent –e disappears when adding –ing (**dive** becomes **diving**). When the word has a short sound and ends in only one consonant, we double the consonant when adding –ing (**swim** becomes **swimming**).

