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| **Grammar Masters: Teacher’s Notes**  **Topic: Progressive Form** |
| Verbs are actions, or doing words, for example ‘swim’, ‘run’, ‘walked’ and ‘sings’.  Verb tenses enable us to express time. There are three simple verb tenses: the present tense, past tense and future tense.  The past progressive tense indicates continuing action, something that was happening, going on, at some point in the past. This tense is formed with the helping "to be" verb, in the past tense, plus the present participle of the verb (with an -ing ending):  I was riding my bike all day yesterday.  Joel was being a terrible role model for his younger brother.  The past progressive indicates a limited duration of time and is thus a convenient way to indicate that something took place (in the simple past) while something else was happening:  Carlos lost his watch while he was running.  The past progressive can express incomplete action.  I was sleeping on the couch when Bertie smashed through the door.  (as opposed to the simple past, which suggests a completed action:  I slept on the couch last night.  The past progressive is also used to poke fun at or criticize an action that is sporadic but habitual in nature:  Tashonda was always handing in late papers.  My father was always lecturing my brother.  The Present Progressive Tense indicates an ongoing action. This tense is formed with an auxiliary verb in the present tense, plus the present participle of the verb (with an -ing ending): "I am buying all my family's Christmas gifts early this year. She is working through the holiday break. Daisy is being a really good girl in these days before Christmas".  The future progressive suggests that an action is going to happen in the future, especially with verbs that convey the idea of a plan or of movement from one place or condition to another: "The team will be arriving in two hours. He will be moving to Portland this summer." |

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