

# 1 Here's the Idea

The progressive and emphatic forms of verbs give writers additional options in describing actions or states of being.

## Using Progressive Forms

▶ **The progressive form of a verb describes an ongoing action or state of being.**

Nelson Mandela **is working** for better understanding among people.

Each of the six tenses has a progressive form. To create these forms, combine the appropriate simple or perfect tense of *be* with the present participle of the main verb.

### Progressive Tenses

Use this Tense	Use to Describe an Action or State of Being . . .	Example
<b>Present</b>	in progress	In Africa, followers of Nelson Mandela <b>are striving</b> for justice.
<b>Past</b>	ongoing in the past	Even as a prisoner, Mandela <b>was teaching</b> .
<b>Future</b>	ongoing in the future	Many high school students <b>will be emulating</b> Mandela's commitment to justice in their future work.
<b>Present perfect</b>	that started in the past and continues in the present	Nelson Mandela <b>has been acting</b> as a goodwill ambassador since his release from prison in 1990.
<b>Past perfect</b>	interrupted by another past action	Mandela <b>had been touring</b> the United States when former New York governor Mario Cuomo described him as "a symbol of hope for the world."
<b>Future perfect</b>	that will take place by a specified future time	Like Gandhi, by the year 2010, Mandela <b>will have been effecting</b> social change for more than 60 years.

## Using Emphatic Forms

▶ **The emphatic form of a verb (*do* + verb) is used to make a verb more forceful.**

Use this form to add emphasis to your writing.

**There's no question that Mandela *does influence* human rights policy.**

There are two emphatic forms—present tense and past tense. To create them, add the appropriate tense of the auxiliary verb *do* to the present form of the verb.

**Activists around the world *do emulate* the democratic ideals of Nelson Mandela.**

PRESENT  
EMPHATIC

**To underscore his commitment to human rights, Mandela *did join* the African National Congress in 1944.**

PAST  
EMPHATIC