

ACT English Progressive and Emphatic Forms

I. The **progressive** form of a verb describes an ongoing action or state of being. Each of the six tenses has a progressive form.

The progressive form uses a form of the verb **be** (am, is, are, was, were,) and the -ing form of the main verb.

1. Present Progressive describes an action or state of being that is in progress.

I am studying my verb tenses.

*****is, am, are + ing**

2. Past Progressive describes an action or state of being that was ongoing in the past.

I was studying my verb tenses on Tuesday.

*****was, were + ing**

3. Future Progressive describes an action or state of being that is ongoing in the future.

I will be studying my verb tenses on Sunday.

*****will be + ing**

II. You can recognize the Perfect Progressive forms because they contain the verb “been.”

4. **Present Perfect Progressive**

describes an action or state of being that started in the past and continues in the present.

I have been studying my verb tenses since Tuesday.

*****has, have been + ing**

5. **Past Perfect Progressive** describes an action or state of being where a past action is interrupted by another past action.

I had been studying my verb tenses when the ceiling fell down.

*****had been + ing**

6. **Future Perfect Progressive** describes an action or state of being that will take place by a specific future time.

By Sunday, I will have been studying my verb tenses for six days.

*****will have been + ing**

II. The **Emphatic Form** of a verb (do + verb) makes the verb more forceful. The word emphatic comes from the word emphasis. The writer or speaker puts more emphasis on the verb by using the emphatic form. This form has only 2 tenses, present and past.

Present uses—do, does

Past uses- did

Examples:

The new books do seem more accurate than the old ones. (Present Emphatic)

The principal did say that the teachers will be having a meeting tomorrow morning. (Past Emphatic)