

The -ing Form

How do we make the -ing verb form in English?

Note: This is also called the **verb + -ing form** and the **verb-ing form**.

1. Basic rule

For most verbs, simply add **-ing** to the base form.

- play → playing
- read → reading
- work → working

2. Verbs that end in -e

Remove the final **-e**, then add **-ing**.

- make → making
- write → writing
- dance → dancing

! Note: Keep the **-e** if the verb ends in **-ee**, **-ye** or **-oe**:

- see → seeing
- dye → dyeing
- canoe → canoeing

3. One-syllable verbs with the consonant–vowel–consonant pattern

Double the final consonant, then add **-ing**.

- run → running
- sit → sitting
- swim → swimming

! Note: Do not double the final consonant if it is a **-w**, **-x** or **-y**:

- snow → snowing
- fix → fixing
- pay → paying

4. Verbs that end in **-ie**

Change **-ie** to **"y"**, then add **-ing**.

- lie → lying
- die → dying

5. Two-syllable verbs that end in a consonant

If the stress is on the **last syllable**, double the consonant, then add **-ing**.

- begin → beginning
- prefer → preferring

If the stress is **not** on the last syllable, do **not** double the consonant:

- listen → listening
- visit → visiting

Exception: If a two-syllable verb ends in a single vowel + **l**, always double the **l** in British English.

British English: travel → travelling; cancel → cancelling; model → modelling

American English: travel → traveling; cancel → canceling; model → modeling