



# Using Action Verbs to Describe What You're Doing Now

KS2 MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Ages 9-12 ⌚ 3 min read

## What Are Action Verbs?

**Verbs** are words that describe **actions** — things we do. When you want to tell someone what you're doing right now, you need to use **present tense verbs**. These are special forms of verbs that show something is happening at this very moment.

In English, we add **-ing** to verbs to show we're doing something now: "I am running", "She is eating", "They are playing". In foreign languages, the way we show this is different, but the idea is the same.

Think of it like changing your clothes for different situations. Just as you wear a coat when it's cold, verbs change their form depending on who is doing the action and when it's happening. Right now verbs are like your "right now outfit"!

## How Different Languages Do It

In **Spanish**, the present tense works like this: "Yo estoy corriendo" means "I am running". The "**estoy**" part tells us it's happening now, and "**corriendo**" is the action itself.

In **French**, you say things like "Je suis en train de manger" (I am in the process of eating). Notice how "**suis**" and "**en train de**" help show it's happening right now.

In **German**, it's simpler: "Ich bin am Lesen" means "I am reading". The verb "**bin**" (am) tells us it's happening now.

Think of it like recipes from different countries. Each one uses different ingredients, but they all create something delicious. Languages use different word patterns, but they all describe the same action!

## Practice Makes Perfect

To get good at this, you need to practise matching the right **subject pronoun** (like "I", "you", "he", "she") with the correct verb form. Teachers often give you a **verb**

**conjugation chart** that shows you how verbs change.

The more you listen to people speaking, watch videos, and practise speaking yourself, the more natural it becomes. Soon you'll be describing everything you're doing — eating, dancing, thinking, learning — in your new language without even having to think about it!

## **Why This Matters**

Being able to describe what you're doing right now is one of the most useful language skills. It helps you have real conversations, share your experience, and connect with people who speak the language you're learning.