

Spanish

Talking about what you are doing now and were doing then (Part 1/2) Present vs Imperfect continuous

Content warning: Social media is only suitable for persons aged 13+

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chatear	to chat, chatting (online)
descargar	to download, downloading
editar	to edit, editing
mirar	to watch, look at
los datos	data
el intercambio	exchange
el perfil	profile
la tarjeta	card
en línea	online





Present and imperfect continuous

To say what someone **is** or **was** doing

Use the **present continuous** for an ongoing action that **is** happening *right now*.

Use the correct person of the present tense of **estar** and a present participle.

Make the present participle of **-ar** verbs by removing **-ar** and adding **-ando**.

Make the present participle of **-er /-ir** verbs by removing **-er/-ir** and adding **-iendo**.

Use the **imperfect continuous** for an ongoing action that **was** happening *right then*.

Use the correct person of the imperfect tense of **estar** and a present participle.

Present continuous

estoy mir**ando** = I am watching
estás hac**iendo** = You are doing
está escrib**iendo** = S/he, it is writing

Imperfect continuous

estaba mir**ando** = I was watching
estabas hac**iendo** = You were doing
estaba escrib**iendo** = S/he, it was writing



The uses of *estar*: present and imperfect



Estar means to be and expresses location or temporary state.

Also use ***estar*** + present participle for ongoing actions.

Present

To say ***I am***, use ***estoy***.

To say ***you are***, use ***estás***.

To say ***s/he or it is***, use ***está***.

Past (imperfect)

To say ***I was***, use ***estaba***.

To say ***you were***, use ***estabas***.

To say ***s/he or it was***, use ***estaba***.

Ejemplos:

I am in England. = ***Estoy*** en Inglaterra.

You are tired. = ***Estás*** cansado/a.

S/he is watching
a video. = ***Está*** mirando
un vídeo.

I was in England = ***Estaba*** en Inglaterra.

You were tired = ***Estabas*** cansado/a.

S/he was watching
a video. = ***Estaba*** mirando
un vídeo.



Questions with *estar*



Estar questions about location use ***dónde***.

Estar questions about **temporary state** use cómo.

Estar questions about **what people are/were doing** use qué.

Ejemplos:

¿Dónde estás?

I am in Spain. = **Estoy** en España.

¿Dónde estabas?

I was in England = **Estaba** en Inglaterra.

¿Cómo estás?

You are tired. = **Estás** cansado/a.

¿Cómo estabas?

You were tired = **Estabas** cansado/a.

¿Qué está haciendo?

S/he is watching
a video. = **Está** mirando
un vídeo.

¿Qué estabas haciendo?

S/he was watching
a video. = **Estaba** mirando
un vídeo.



Summary

1. The words *ahora mismo* mean right now in Spanish.
2. To say what you are doing right now in Spanish, use the present continuous.
3. Use the imperfect continuous to say what you were doing.
4. *Estabas bailando* means You were dancing.
5. *S/he was doing an exchange* in Spanish is:
Estaba haciendo un intercambio.

