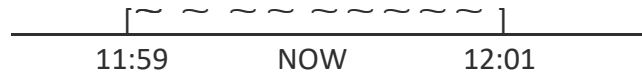
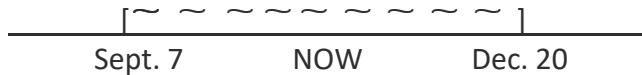


- a. The present progressive is used for actions in progress now/in the present. On a timeline, present progressive actions are seen as periods of time. (Keywords: *today, now, nowadays, at the moment, at this time, this day, this week, this month, etc.*)

The period of time may be short: *I am sending a text I to my friend now.*



The period of time may be long: *Cathy is studying at Bishop's this fall session.*



Whether the period of time is short or long, every present progressive action has a start point before now and a projected end point after now.

- b. The present progressive can only be used with action verbs.

Thomas is running right now. (action verb)

He ~~is feeling~~ great! → He feels great! (*Feel* is a stative* verb and should not be used in progressive forms. The simple present is used for states occurring in the present.)

- c. Because a present progressive action is seen as a period of time, it represents temporary situations.

Anthony is writing his exam now. (He will complete the exam in an hour or so.)

Laurie is working at Bishop's University this summer. (This is a temporary summer job.)

*What is a stative verb?

A stative verb is timeless; in other words, it can be seen as permanent or unchangeable. Therefore, a disconnect may occur between the temporary aspect of the present progressive and the permanent nature of a stative verb. Stative verbs are, thus, not generally used in progressive forms. (Exceptions do occur.) Here are a few categories and examples of stative verbs: the verb *be*, senses (e.g., *see, taste, feel*), mental perception (e.g., *know, understand*), ownership (e.g., *own, possess*), and emotions (e.g., *love, want*).

Memorizing a list of stative verbs is not enough for correct usage; one has to understand a verb's sense in a sentence as some verbs have both active and stative meanings:

Rita is tasting the soup, and the soup tastes good. (The first verb *is tasting* describes the action of Rita placing the soup in her mouth. The second verb *tastes* describes the delicious quality/state of the soup.)

Stative verb reference:

Celce-Murcia, M. & Larsen-Freeman, D. (1999). *The grammar book: An ESL/EFL course* (2nd ed.). Heinle & Heinle. (pp.120-122)

