

7-17-2015

# The Thing about -ing

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## Recommended Citation

Orf, Amy S., "The Thing about -ing" (2015). *Conference Presentations*. Paper 142.  
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# The Thing about *-ing*

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AATSP 2015 Conference

# Abstract

Once students are exposed to the Spanish progressive, they often start generalizing *-ndo* to every context where *-ing* occurs in English, producing ungrammatical structures such as *me gusta nadando* and *el traje nadando*. Expressing *-ing* in Spanish is actually quite complicated and depends on whether *-ing* functions as a verb, adverb, noun, or adjective. Even the Spanish progressive causes problems for students since it differs in use from the English progressive. In this presentation I hope to shed some light on the equivalents of *-ing* in Spanish.



# English *-ing*

- Verb – He *is cooking*.
- Adverb – He helps me *by cooking*.
- Noun – He loves *cooking*.
- Adjective – He uses *cooking* oil.
- Preposition – He cooks *during* the news.

Verbs with *-ing*



# Verbs with *-ing*

- Present tense
  - -¿*Qué haces?* 'What are you doing?'
  - -*Estudio.* 'I am studying.'
  - *Vamos al supermercado.* 'We are going to the supermarket.'
  - *Vienen a visitarnos.* 'They are coming to visit us.'
  - *Le escribo para explicar la situación.* 'I am writing to you to explain the situation.'
  - *Hace mucho tiempo que vivo aquí.* 'I have been living here for a long time.'
- Future tense
  - *Va a cantar en Carnegie Hall el mes que viene.* 'She is singing/going to sing in Carnegie Hall next month.'
- Imperfect tense
  - *Miraba una película cuando llegó.* 'I was watching a movie when he arrived.'

# Verbs with *-ing* (continued)

- Progressive

- *estoy hablando* 'I am speaking'
- *estaba hablando* 'I was speaking'
- *estuve hablando* 'I was speaking'
- *estaré hablando* 'I will be speaking'
- *voy a estar hablando* 'I am going to be speaking'
- *estaría hablando* 'I would be speaking'
- *he estado hablando* 'I have been speaking'
- *había estado hablando* 'I had been speaking'
- *habré estado hablando* 'I will have been speaking'
- *habría estado hablando* 'I would have been speaking'
- *esté hablando* 'I am speaking'
- *estuviera hablando* 'I was speaking'
- *haya estado hablando* 'I have been speaking'
- *hubiera estado hablando* 'I had been speaking'



# Verbs with *-ing* (continued)

- Progressive (continued)

- *Claro que nosotros **estamos trabajando** en este libro, **venimos trabajando** en él desde hace meses, porque simultáneamente **andamos trabajando** en otras cosas; pero ya que **llevamos trabajando** tanto tiempo, vale la pena **seguir trabajando** hasta terminarlo.* 'Of course we are working on this book, we have been working on it for months, because simultaneously we are working on other things; but since we have spent so much time working, it is worth it to keep working until finishing it.' (Marsá 177-178)
- *Me **voy cansando** de mi residencia en este lugar [...].* 'I am getting tired of my residence in this place [...].' (Valera 19)
- *[...] y tuve mujer buena, e hijos que el Señor me **iba quitando** a medida que me los daba.* '[...] and I had a good wife, and children that the Lord kept taking from me as he gave them to me.' (Pereda 9)
- *[...] Buenos Aires [...] no lo ha perdido, ¿no? Lo **va perdiendo** tal vez, pero no lo ha perdido del todo.* '[...] Buenos Aires [...] hasn't lost it, no? Maybe it is losing it, but it hasn't lost it completely.' (*El habla culta de la ciudad de Buenos Aires* 66)



# Verbs with *-ing* (continued)

- Progressive (continued)

- *Desde niño **vengo padeciendo** los estragos de mi imaginación.* 'Since I was a child I have been suffering the ravages of my imagination.' (Pérez Galdós 22)
- *Hace años que Rodolfo Urbina [...] **viene practicando** [...] el paradójico consejo de Tolstoi [...].* 'For years Rodolfo Urbina [...] has been practicing [...] the paradoxical advice of Tolstoy [...].' (Matthei 2)
- *Los directivos [...] confirmaron esta semana lo que se **venía anunciando** por meses [...].* 'The directors [...] confirmed this week what was being (had been) announced for months [...]. (Padilla 2)
- *[...] tú eres el que les **andas mirando y auscultando** a los hombres por dentro [...].* '[...] you are the one that goes around looking at and listening to men on the inside [...].' (Unamuno 124)
- *[...] y murió, pasó desapercibido el pobre hombre, que siempre **andaba buscando** hacer inventos [...].* '[...] and he died, passed unnoticed the poor man, who was always seeking to make inventions [...].' (Morales and Vaquero 91)

# Verbs with *-ing* (continued)

- Progressive (continued)
  - *Me **paso** largas horas **contemplándola**.* 'I spend long hours looking at her.' (Unamuno 82)
  - *[...] me **pasaba** horas en la ventana **mirando** los troleys.* '[...] I used to spend hours in the window watching the trolleys.' (*El habla culta de la ciudad de Buenos Aires* 55)
  - *En el viaje de ida [...] se **pasó** todo el tiempo **diciendo** que [...].* 'On the way there [...] she spent the whole time saying that [...].' (*El habla culta de la ciudad de Buenos Aires* 69)
  - *[...] **llevo** seis años ya **trabajando** en la Universidad [...].* '[...] I have already been working at the University for six years [...].' (Morales and Vaquero 301-302)
  - *Mire, yo **llevo** tres veces **dando** el mismo curso y ya, llega un momento en que uno, verdaderamente, se **hastía**.* 'Look, I have taught the same course three times and already, a moment arrives in which one, truly, gets fed up.' (Morales and Vaquero 137)



# Verbs with *-ing* (continued)

- Progressive (continued)

- *[...] parecía que **había seguido lloviendo** sin parar.* '[...] it seemed that it had continued raining without stopping.' (Rulfo 122)
- *No creo que... que el hecho de que yo diga que sean idiotas... esté... se pueda tomar como un patrón de que **vayan a seguir siendo** todos unos idiotas [...].* 'I don't think that... that the fact that I say that they are idiots... um... can be taken as a pattern that they are all going to keep being idiots [...].' (*El habla culta de la ciudad de Buenos Aires* 121)
- *[...] es la ventaja que **tenemos**.* [...]. *Que hemos tenido, y **seguimos teniendo** ¿ve?* '[...] it is the advantage that we have. [...]. That we have had, and we continue having, do you see?' (Morales and Vaquero 235)
- *El doctor **continuaba mirando** aquel diabólico aparato [...].* 'The doctor continued looking at that diabolical apparatus [...].' (Pérez Galdós 20)
- *[...] varios aviones y helicópteros **continúan sobrevolando** las zonas afectadas.* '[...] various planes and helicopters continue flying over the affected areas.' ("Rescatan en Irán 2.500 cuerpos" 1)

# Adverbs with *-ing*



# Adverbs with *-ing*

- Gerund of any Spanish verb: **-ndo**
  - $S_1 = S_2$ 
    - *Salí de la casa **corriendo**.* 'I left the house running.'
    - *Bajó de peso **comiendo** menos.* 'She lost weight by eating less.'
    - ***Caminando** a clase, tropecé y me caí.* 'Walking to class, I tripped and fell.'
    - ***Queriendo** evitar problemas, decidí salir.* 'Wanting to avoid problems, I decided to leave.'
    - *Lo dijo **sabiendo** que no era cierto.* 'He said it knowing that it wasn't true.'
  - $DO_1 = S_2$  (with main verbs of perception or representation)
    - *Vimos a Anita **bailando** con Pedro.* 'We saw Anita dancing with Pedro.'
    - *Oí a Jaime **cantando** en español.* 'I heard Jaime singing in Spanish.'
    - *Pintó un oso **pescando** en el río.* 'He painted a bear fishing in the river.'
    - *\*Abrí una caja **conteniendo** libros.* 'I opened a box containing books.'

# Adverbs with *-ing* (continued)

- Gerund (continued)

- $S_1 \neq DO_1 \neq S_2$

- *Haciendo mucho sol, quiero ir a la playa.* 'It being very sunny, I want to go to the beach.'
    - *Siendo fácil, terminaré pronto.* 'It being easy, I will finish soon.'
    - *Permitiéndolo mi madre, vamos al cine.* 'My mom permitting it, we (will) go to the movies.'
    - *Durmiendo los niños, podemos relajarnos.* 'The children sleeping, we can relax.'
    - *Aun jurándolo Juan, no lo creo.* 'Even with Juan swearing it, I don't believe it.'



Nouns with *-ing*

# Nouns with *-ing*

- Infinitive of any Spanish verb: **-r**
  - *Me gusta **nadar**.* 'I like swimming.'
  - ***Bailar** es divertido.* 'Dancing is fun.'
  - *Odio **llegar** tarde.* 'I hate arriving late.'
  - *Desayuné antes de **ducharme**.* 'I ate breakfast before taking a shower.'
  - *Salieron del restaurante sin **pagar**.* 'They left the restaurant without paying.'
- Past participle of some verbs: **-do/a**
  - *el aullido* 'howling,' *la cubierta* 'covering,' *el dicho* 'saying,' *el escrito* 'writing,' *el hilado* 'spinning,' *el lavado* 'washing,' *la puesta* 'setting,' *el resoplido* 'panting,' *el significado* 'meaning,' *la tomada* 'taking,' *el vestido* 'clothing'



# Nouns with *-ing* (continued)

- Derivational suffixes (18)

- **-a:** *la cocina* 'cooking,' *la compra* 'buying,' *la escucha* 'listening,' *la espera* 'waiting,' *la guarda* 'safekeeping,' *la pesca* 'fishing,' *la plancha* 'ironing,' *la práctica* 'training,' *la toma* 'taking'
- **-aje:** *el alambraje* 'wiring,' *el andamiaje* 'scaffolding,' *el aterrizaje* 'landing,' *el camionaje* 'trucking,' *el doblaje* 'dubbing,' *el hospedaje* 'lodging,' *el vendaje* 'bandaging'
- **-al:** *el final* 'ending'
- **-anza:** *la acechanza* 'watching,' *la andanza* 'wandering,' *la añoranza* 'longing,' *la crianza* 'raising,' *la enseñanza* 'teaching,' *la labranza* 'farming,' *la matanza* 'killing'
- **-azgo:** *el hallazgo* 'finding'
- **-ción:** *la colocación* 'placing,' *la felicitación* 'greeting,' *la natación* 'swimming,' *la visita* 'visiting'

# Nouns with *-ing* (continued)

- Derivational suffixes (continued)

- **-dura:** *la anudadura* 'knotting,' *la bordadura* 'embroidering,' *la cortadura* 'cutting,' *la lamedura* 'licking,' *la limpiadura* 'cleaning,' *la mascadura* 'chewing,' *la mecedura* 'rocking,' *la peladura* 'peeling,' *la rociadura* 'sprinkling,' *la rodadura* 'rolling,' *la teñidura* 'dyeing,' *la tosidura* 'coughing,' *la tropezadura* 'stumbling,' *la vestidura* 'clothing'
- **-encia:** *la advertencia* 'warning'
- **-eo:** *el barqueo* 'boating,' *el besuqueo* 'kissing,' *el blanqueo* 'whitening,' *el boxeo* 'boxing,' *el deletreo* 'spelling,' *el escopeteo* 'shooting,' *el jadeo* 'panting,' *el paladeo* 'tasting,' *el revoloteo* 'fluttering,' *el tartamudeo* 'stuttering,' *el zapateo* 'tapping one's feet'
- **-ería:** *la estantería* 'shelving,' *la ganadería* 'cattle raising,' *la golfería* 'loafing,' *la hotelería* 'hotel keeping,' *la ratería* 'thieving/pilfering,' *la relojería* 'clock making'
- **-ez:** *la marchitez* 'withering/fading'
- **-icio:** *el edificio* 'building,' *el ejercicio* 'exercising'



# Nouns with *-ing* (continued)

- Derivational suffixes (continued)
  - **-iza**: *la paliza* 'beating'
  - **-m(i)ento**: *el aplastamiento* 'crushing,' *el cargamento* 'loading,' *el limpiamiento* 'cleaning,' *el señalamiento* 'signaling'
  - **-o**: *el ahorro* 'saving,' *el baño* 'bathing,' *el canto* 'singing,' *el comienzo* 'beginning,' *el contrabando* 'smuggling,' *el principio* 'beginning,' *el gusto* 'liking,' *el llanto* 'crying,' *el juego* 'playing/gambling,' *el saludo* 'greeting,' *el vuelo* 'flying'
  - **-ón**: *la hinchazón* 'swelling,' *la rascazón* 'itching,' *el restregón* 'scrubbing,' *el retortijón* 'twisting,' *la trabazón* 'joining/linking,' *el trompición* 'stumbling'
  - **-sión**: *la distorsión* 'twisting'
  - **-tura**: *la abertura* 'opening,' *la escritura* 'writing,' *la fractura* 'breaking,' *la pintura* 'painting'

# Adjectives with *-ing*



# Adjectives with *-ing*

- Gerund: **-ndo**

- *ardiendo* 'burning,' *hirviendo* 'boiling'

- Present participle: **-nte**

- *agravante* 'aggravating,' *alarmante* 'alarming,' *ambulante* 'traveling,' *amenazante* 'menacing,' *aplastante* 'crushing,' *ardiente* 'burning,' *ascendente* 'ascending,' *asfixiante* 'asphyxiating,' *brillante* 'shining/sparkling,' *calmante* 'calming,' *cambiante* 'changing,' *colgante* 'hanging,' *convinciente* 'convincing,' *correspondiente* 'corresponding,' *corriente* 'running,' *creciente* 'growing,' *creyente* 'believing,' *chocante* 'shocking,' *degradante* 'degrading,' *deprimente* 'depressing,' *descendente* 'descending,' *determinante* 'determining,' *diferente* 'differing,' *durmiente* 'sleeping,' *edificante* 'edifying,' *emocionante* 'moving/exciting,' *energizante* 'energizing,' *espeluznante* 'hair-raising,' *espumante* 'foaming/sparkling,' *estimulante* 'stimulating,' *estupefaciente* 'astonishing/stupefying,' *exigente* 'demanding,' *existente* 'existing,' *extenuante* 'extenuating,' *fascinante* 'fascinating,' *fatigante* 'fatiguing,' *flameante* 'flaming,'

# Adjectives with *-ing* (continued)

- Present participle (continued)

- *flotante* 'floating,' *fortificante* 'fortifying,' *frustrante* 'frustrating,' *gobernante* 'governing,' *gratificante* 'gratifying,' *hidratante* 'hydrating,' *hipnotizante* 'hypnotizing,' *hiriente* 'wounding,' *hirviente* 'boiling,' *hispanohablante* 'Spanish-speaking,' *humillante* 'humiliating,' *insultante* 'insulting,' *interesante* 'interesting,' *irritante* 'irritating,' *jadeante* 'panting,' *mandante* 'commanding,' *mereciente* 'deserving,' *modificante* 'modifying,' *naciente* 'beginning,' *nauseante* 'nauseating,' *oponente* 'opposing,' *paralizante* 'paralyzing,' *participante* 'participating,' *pendiente* 'hanging,' *penetrante* 'penetrating,' *perjudicante* 'damaging,' *perteneciente* 'belonging,' *placiente* 'pleasing,' *precedente* 'preceding,' *principiante* 'beginning,' *provocante* 'provoking,' *purificante* 'purifying,' *refrescante* 'refreshing,' *resplandeciente* 'shining/glowing,' *restante* 'remaining,' *rotante* 'revolving,' *saltante* 'jumping,' *siguiente* 'following,' *silbante* 'whistling,' *sobrante* 'remaining,' *sobresaliente* 'outstanding,' *sofocante* 'suffocating,' *sonriente* 'smiling,' *sorprendente* 'surprising,' *sosteniente* 'sustaining,' *subyacente* 'underlying,' *sudante* 'sweating,' *susurrante* 'whispering,' *traumatizante* 'traumatizing,' *tremulante* 'trembling,' *tronante* 'thundering,' *vacilante* 'vacillating/hesitating,' *viviente* 'living,' *yacente* 'lying'



# Adjectives with *-ing* (continued)

- Past participle: **-do/a**
  - *aburrido* 'boring,' *afligido* 'aching,' *atrevido* 'daring,' *cansado* 'tiring,' *colgado* 'hanging,' *confiado* 'trusting,' *divertido* 'entertaining,' *dolorido* 'aching,' *dormido* 'sleeping,' *perdido* 'missing,' *sentado* 'sitting,' *tendido* 'lying'
- Derivational suffixes (13)
  - **-ble**: *agradable* 'pleasing,' *incansable* 'untiring,' *incomparable* 'surpassing,' *interminable* 'unending,' *potable* 'drinking,' *reclinable* 'reclining'
  - **-dizo/a**: *ablandadizo* 'soothing,' *acomodadizo* 'accommodating,' *erradizo* 'wandering,' *saledizo* 'projecting/jutting'
  - **-dor/a**: *abrumador* 'overwhelming,' *acusador* 'accusing,' *adulador* 'flattering,' *agotador* 'exhausting,' *alentador* 'encouraging,' *aprobador* 'approving,' *bronceador* 'tanning,' *cegador* 'blinding,' *conmovedor* 'moving,' *desalentador* 'discouraging,' *desgarrador* 'heartbreaking,' *edificador* 'edifying,' *empreendedor* 'enterprising,' *encantador* 'charming,' *enloquecedor* 'maddening,' *enredador* 'troublemaking,' *ensordecedor* 'deafening,' *fatigador* 'fatiguing,' *fortificador* 'fortifying,' *ganador* 'winning,' *identificador* 'identifying,' *innovador* 'innovating,' *inspirador* 'inspiring,' *intimidador* 'intimidating,' *perjudicador* 'damaging,' *perturbador* 'perturbing,' *provocador* 'provoking,' *purificador* 'purifying,' *revelador* 'revealing,' *sumador* 'adding,' *trabajador* 'hardworking,' *tranquilizador* 'soothing/reassuring,' *volador* 'flying'

# Adjectives with *-ing* (continued)

- Derivational suffixes (continued)
  - **-ero/a**: *duradero* 'lasting,' *milagrero* 'miracle-working,' *noticiero* 'news-bearing,' *purificador* 'purifying,' *venidero* 'coming'
  - **-iego/a**: *andariego* 'wandering/roving,' *mujeriego* 'womanizing,' *paniego* 'wheat-producing'
  - **-ífero/a**: *florífero* 'flower-bearing,' *fructífero* 'fruit-bearing,' *fumífero* 'smoking/emitting smoke,' *lactífero* 'milk-producing,' *lanífero* 'wool-bearing,' *lucífero* 'shining,' *melífero* 'honey-producing,' *nubífero* 'cloud-bearing,' *petrolífero* 'oil-bearing,' *pomífero* 'apple-bearing,' *soporífero* 'sleep-producing,' *sudorífero* 'sweat-producing'
  - **-ino/a**: *mortecino* 'dying'
  - **-ivo/a**: *admirativo* 'admiring,' *auditivo* 'hearing,' *comprensivo* 'understanding,' *decisivo* 'deciding,' *depresivo* 'depressing,' *efusivo* 'gushing,' *exagerativo* 'exaggerating,' *llamativo* 'eye-catching,' *persuasivo* 'convincing,' *provocativo* 'provoking,' *regitivo* 'ruling/governing,' *rotativo* 'rotating'



# Adjectives with *-ing* (continued)

- Derivational suffixes (continued)
  - **-ón/ona:** *adulón* 'fawning/groveling,' *mandón* 'domineering,' *mirón* 'onlooking/gawking,' *preguntón* 'questioning'
  - **-oso/a:** *achacoso* 'ailing,' *amoroso* 'loving,' *asco* 'disgusting,' *asombroso* 'astonishing,' *cariñoso* 'loving,' *contagioso* 'catching,' *chismoso* 'gossiping,' *chistoso* 'amusing,' *embarazoso* 'embarrassing,' *enfadoso* 'annoying/irritating,' *engañoso* 'deceiving,' *enojoso* 'annoying/irritating,' *espantoso* 'frightening,' *espumoso* 'foaming/sparkling,' *fatigoso* 'fatiguing,' *indecoroso* 'unbecoming,' *jocoso* 'joking/amusing,' *mentiroso* 'lying,' *quejicoso* 'complaining,' *silboso* 'whistling,' *sudoroso* 'sweating,' *tembloroso* 'trembling,' *vistoso* 'eye-catching'
  - **-tor/a:** *productor* 'producing,' *protector* 'protecting,' *redentor* 'redeeming,' *reductor* 'reducing,' *reflector* 'reflecting,' *reproductor* 'reproducing,' *seductor* 'seducing,' *selector* 'selecting,' *traductor* 'translating'
  - **-torio/a:** *aprobatorio* 'approving,' *giratorio* 'revolving,' *masticatorio* 'chewing'
  - **-undo/a:** *cogitabundo* 'reflecting,' *errabundo* 'wandering,' *furibundo* 'raging,' *gemebundo* 'groaning/moaning,' *moribundo* 'dying,' *nauseabundo* 'nauseating'

# Adjectives with *-ing* (continued)

- Prepositional phrase

- *la fuente de agua potable* 'drinking fountain'
- *el traje de baño* 'bathing suit'
- *la lección de canto* 'singing lesson'
- *la lista de las compras* 'shopping list'
- *el campo de deportes* 'playing field'
- *la sala de lectura* 'reading room'
- *el examen de conducir* 'driving test'
- *la máquina de coser* 'sewing machine'
- *el saco de dormir* 'sleeping bag'
- *el papel de escribir* 'writing paper'
- *el líquido para fregar platos* 'dishwashing liquid'
- *el aparato para oír* 'hearing aid'



# Adjectives with *-ing* (continued)

- Relative clause

- *una caja que contiene libros* 'a box containing books'
- *la empleada que habla inglés* 'the employee speaking English'
- *un plato que hace la boca agua* 'a mouthwatering dish'
- *la mujer que lleva una blusa azul* 'the woman wearing a blue blouse'
- *el hombre que maneja el camión* 'the man driving the truck'
- *una experiencia que pone los pelos de punta* 'a hair-raising experience'
- *las leyes que regulan las importaciones* 'the laws regulating importations'
- *una tarea que requiere mucho tiempo* 'a time-consuming assignment'
- *la chica que toca el piano* 'the girl playing the piano'
- *los niños que viven en el barrio* 'the children living in the neighborhood'

# Prepositions with *-ing*



# Prepositions with *-ing*

- **'according to'**: *según*
- **'barring'**: *excepto, salvo*
- **'concerning'**: *con respecto a, acerca de, concerniente a, referente a, refiriéndose a*
- **'considering'**: *teniendo en cuenta, considerando*
- **'during'**: *durante*
- **'excepting'**: *excepto, exceptuando a, con excepción de*
- **'excluding'**: *excepto, exceptuando a, con exclusión de*
- **'failing'**: *a falta de*
- **'following'**: *después de*
- **'including'**: *incluso, inclusive, con inclusión de*
- **'owing to'**: *a causa de, debido a, por razones de*
- **'pending'**: *hasta*
- **'pertaining to'**: *relacionado con, referente a, relativo a*
- **'regarding'**: *con respecto a, en cuanto a, referente a, relativo a*

# -ing in Spanish

- Verb – He is cooking.
  - *Cocina. Está cocinando. Va a cocinar (el mes que viene).*
- Adverb – He helps me by cooking.
  - *Me ayuda cocinando.*
- Noun – He loves cooking.
  - *Le encanta cocinar. Le encanta la cocina.*
- Adjective – He uses cooking oil.
  - *Usa aceite de cocina.*
- Preposition – He cooks during the news.
  - *Cocina durante las noticias.*



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