Verb Forms: “ING”

Many students have difficulty when it comes to understanding the function of verbs ending in “-ing”. In order to learn a little more about the general usage of “-ing” verbs, please review the following information.

“-ing” will always be used to express the idea that an action is continuous/progressive. This means it is an action which will continue to occur at some moment in time.

Ex: I am going to the store.
He/She is sleeping in the next room.
My dog will be flying on a plane tomorrow.

It is important to remember however, that sometimes “-ing” verbs can be used in different ways to modify (or add details to) other parts of a sentence:

As an adjective: “-ing” verbs are sometimes used to describe a noun.

This is a very boring lecture.
I really enjoyed the skiing class this winter.
The falling leaves are pretty in autumn.

As an adverb: Rarely, “-ing” verbs can be used to describe a verb.

She came running out of the room.

As a gerund (noun form): Sometimes “-ing” verbs represent the noun.

I received a ticket for speeding.
Many people believe smoking is a bad habit.
Traveling is very fun!