Using the Present Participle in French!
So, what’s the Present Participle?

• The Present Participle is the verb form which ends in -ing in English.
• It is used to show an action which takes place at the same time as another action.
  eg. Coming into the room, I saw my friend.
• It may also be used with the prepositions “upon’, “whilst”, “by”, or ‘on”.
  eg. On turning the corner, you will see the church.
• The Present Participle may be used as an adjective
  eg a charming boy.
So, how do I do that in French??

- In French, replace the -ons ending of the nous form of the Present with -ant.
  - travaillons → travaillant
  - finissons → finissant
  - attendons → attendant
  - allons → allant
  - faisons → faisant
  - voyons → voyant
  - etc
Are there any irregulars?

• Bien sûr! - This IS French, after all!!

• The irregular Present Participles are:
  être         étant
  avoir        ayant
  savoir       sachant
And how do I USE it in French?

• Basically, the Present Participle is used in the same way as in English.
• As a verb, to show simultaneous action.
  Entrant dans la pièce, j’ai vu mon copain.
• With the preposition “en” – to say someone is doing something at the same time as something else
  En tournant le coin, tu verras l’église.
• With the preposition “en” – to express how or why something is done (by or through)
  En étudiant, tu réussiras.
• May be used to replace a relative clause (qui + verb)
  En Chine, les personnes parlant \((qui\ parlent)\) français sont rares.
• As an adjective - it then agrees.
  un garçon charmant,
  une fille charmante
When NOT to use it!

- DON’T use it to try to form a tense.
  
  *I am working* is only ever *je travaille*.
  
  *I was working* may only be *je travaillais*.

- DON’T use it with any preposition other than “en”. Use the INFINITIVE instead.
  
  Il est parti, sous la pluie, sans me parler, sans me regarder.

- DON’T use it after verbs of perception - again, use the INFINITIVE.
  
  J’entends jouer les enfants. = I hear the children playing. (Note word order.)
Form the Present Participle...

- parler
- choisir
- entendre
- aller
- faire
- lire
- écrire
- devoir
- parlant
- choisissant
- entendant
- allant
- faisant
- lisant
- écrivant
- devant (yep, cd be confusing)