

# Verb + -ing (enjoy doing / stop doing etc.)

A

Look at these examples:

- I **enjoy** dancing. (*not* 'I enjoy to dance')
- Would you **mind** closing the door? (*not* 'mind to close')
- Ian **suggested** going to the cinema. (*not* 'suggested to go')

After **enjoy**, **mind** and **suggest**, we use **-ing** (*not to...*).

Here are some more verbs that are followed by **-ing**:

stop	delay	fancy	consider	admit	miss	involve
finish	postpone	imagine	avoid	deny	risk	practise

- Suddenly everybody **stopped** talking. There was silence.
- I'll do the shopping when I've **finished** cleaning the flat.
- He tried to **avoid** answering my question.
- I don't **fancy** going out this evening.
- Have you ever **considered** going to live in another country?

Note the negative form **not -ing**:

- When I'm on holiday, I **enjoy not having** to get up early.

B

We also use **-ing** after:

give up (= stop)
put off (= postpone)
carry on / go on (= continue)
keep or keep on (= do something continuously or repeatedly)

- Paula has **given up** smoking.
- We must do something. We can't **go on** living like this! (*or ...carry on living...*)
- Don't **keep** interrupting me while I'm speaking. (*or Don't keep on interrupting...*)

C

With some verbs you can use the structure *verb* + somebody + **-ing**:

- I can't **imagine** George riding a motorbike.
- You can't **stop me** doing what I want.
- 'Sorry to **keep you** waiting so long.' 'That's all right.'

Note the passive form (**being done/seen/kept** etc.):

- I don't **mind being kept** waiting. (= I don't mind people keeping me...)

D

When you are talking about finished actions, you can say **having done/stolen/said** etc.:

- She admitted **having stolen** the money.

But it is not necessary to use **having (done)**. You can also use the simple **-ing** form for finished actions:

- She admitted **stealing** the money.
- I now **regret saying** (*or having said*) what I said.

For **regret**, see Unit 55B.

E

After some of the verbs on this page (especially **admit/deny/suggest**) you can use **that...**:

- She **denied that** she had stolen the money. (*or She denied stealing...*)
- Ian **suggested that** we went to the cinema. (*or Ian suggested going...*)

For **suggest**, see also Unit 34.

## EXERCISES

52.1 Complete each sentence with one of these verbs:

answer apply be be listen make see try use wash work write

- 1 He tried to avoid ...**answering**... my question.
- 2 Could you please stop ..... so much noise?
- 3 I enjoy ..... to music.
- 4 I considered ..... for the job but in the end I decided against it.
- 5 Have you finished ..... your hair yet?
- 6 If you walk into the road without looking, you risk ..... knocked down.
- 7 Jim is 65 but he isn't going to retire yet. He wants to carry on .....
- 8 I don't mind you ..... the phone as long as you pay for all your calls.
- 9 Hello! Fancy ..... you here! What a surprise!
- 10 I've put off ..... the letter so many times. I really must do it today.
- 11 What a stupid thing to do! Can you imagine anybody ..... so stupid?
- 12 Sarah gave up ..... to find a job in this country and decided to go abroad.

52.2 Complete the sentences for each situation using **-ing**.

1	What shall we do?	We could go to the cinema.	She suggested ... <b>going</b> ... ... <b>to the cinema</b> ...
2	Do you want to play tennis?	No, not really.	He didn't fancy .....
3	You were driving too fast.	Yes, it's true. Sorry!	She admitted .....
4	Why don't we go for a swim?	Good idea!	She suggested .....
5	You broke into the shop.	No, I didn't!	He denied .....
6	Can you wait a few minutes?	Sure, no problem.	They didn't mind .....

52.3 Complete the sentences so that they mean the same as the first sentence. Use **-ing**.

- 1 I can do what I want and you can't stop me. You ...**can't stop me doing what I want**...
- 2 It's not a good idea to travel during the rush hour.  
It's better to avoid .....
- 3 Shall we go away tomorrow instead of today?  
Shall we postpone ..... until .....
- 4 The driver of the car said it was true that he didn't have a licence.  
The driver of the car admitted .....
- 5 Could you turn the radio down, please?  
Would you mind .....
- 6 Please don't interrupt me all the time.  
Would you mind .....

52.4 Use your own ideas to complete these sentences. Use **-ing**.

- 1 She's a very interesting person. I always enjoy ...**talking to her**...
- 2 I'm not feeling very well. I don't fancy .....
- 3 I'm afraid there aren't any chairs. I hope you don't mind .....
- 4 It was a lovely day, so I suggested .....
- 5 It was very funny. I couldn't stop .....
- 6 My car isn't very reliable. It keeps .....