

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

A

Look at these examples:

- ☐ I **enjoy** reading. (*not* I enjoy to read)
- ☐ Would you **mind** closing the door?
(*not* mind to close)
- ☐ Chris **suggested** going to the cinema.
(*not* suggested to go)

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

Some more verbs that are followed by **-ing**:

stop	postpone	admit	avoid	imagine
finish	consider	deny	risk	fancy

- ☐ 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. (= I'm not enthusiastic about it)
- ☐ Have you ever **considered** going to live in another country?

The negative form is **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)
go on / carry on (= continue)
keep or keep on (= do something continuously or repeatedly)

- ☐ I've **given up** reading newspapers. I think it's a waste of time.
- ☐ Jenny doesn't want to retire. She wants to **go on** working. (*or ... to carry on working.*)
- ☐ You **keep** interrupting when I'm talking! *or* You **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. :

- ☐ They admitted **having stolen** the money.

But it is not necessary to use **having** (done). You can also say:

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

For **regret**, see Unit 56B.

E

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

- ☐ They **denied that** they had stolen the money. (*or They denied stealing ...*)
- ☐ Sam **suggested that** we went to the cinema. (*or Sam suggested going ...*)

Suggest → Unit 34 Being done (passive) → Unit 44B Verb + to ... → Unit 54 Verb + to ... and -ing → Units 55C, 56-58 Regret / go on → Unit 56B Go on / carry on / keep on → Unit 141A

Exercises







Unit 53

53.1 Complete each sentence with one of the following verbs (in the correct form):

~~answer~~ apply be forget listen live lose make read try use 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 the newspaper yet?
- 6 We need to change our routine. We can't go on like this.
- 7 I don't mind you the phone as long as you pay for all your calls.
- 8 My memory is getting worse. I keep things.
- 9 I've put off the letter so many times. I really must do it today.
- 10 What a stupid thing to do! Can you imagine anybody so stupid?
- 11 I've given up to lose weight – it's impossible.
- 12 If you invest your money on the stock market, you risk it.

53.2 Complete the sentences for each situation using -ing.

- 1 What shall we do?  We could go to the zoo. She suggested going to the zoo.
- 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 the CD player.  No, I didn't! He denied
- 6 Can you wait a few minutes?  Sure, no problem. They didn't mind

53.3 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 paint the kitchen next weekend instead of this weekend?
Shall we postpone until?
- 4 Could you turn the radio down, please?
Would you mind?
- 5 Please don't interrupt me all the time.
Would you mind?

53.4 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 beautiful day, so I suggested
- 5 It was very funny. I couldn't stop
- 6 My car isn't very reliable. It keeps