

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 ...*)

Verb + to ... (decide to ... / forget to ... etc.)

A

offer	decide	hope	deserve	promise
agree	plan	manage	afford	threaten
refuse	arrange	fail	forget	learn

After these verbs you can use **to ... (infinitive)**:

- It was late, so we **decided to take** a taxi home.
- Simon was in a difficult situation, so I **agreed to help** him.
- How old were you when you **learnt to drive**? (*or learnt how to drive*)
- I waved to Karen but **failed to attract** her attention.

The negative is **not to ...** :

- We **decided not to go** out because of the weather.
- I **promised not to be** late.

After some verbs **to ...** is not possible. For example, **enjoy/think/suggest**:

- I **enjoy reading**. (*not enjoy to read*)
- Tom **suggested going** to the cinema. (*not suggested to go*)
- Are you **thinking of buying** a car? (*not thinking to buy*)

For verb + **-ing**, see Unit 53. For verb + preposition + **-ing**, see Unit 62.

B

We also use **to ...** after:

seem appear tend pretend claim

For example:

- They **seem to have** plenty of money.
- I like Dan, but I think he **tends to talk** too much.
- Ann **pretended not to see** me when she passed me in the street.

There is also a *continuous* infinitive (**to be doing**) and a *perfect* infinitive (**to have done**):

- I **pretended to be reading** the newspaper. (= I pretended that I **was reading**)
- You **seem to have lost** weight. (= it seems that you **have lost** weight)
- Martin **seems to be enjoying** his new job. (= it seems that he **is enjoying** it)

C

After **dare** you can use the infinitive with or without **to**:

- I wouldn't **dare to tell** him. *or* I wouldn't **dare tell** him.

But after **dare not (or daren't)**, you must use the infinitive without **to**:

- I **daren't tell** him what happened. (*not* I daren't to tell him)

D

After some verbs you can use a question word (**what/whether/how** etc.) + **to ...** . We use this structure especially after:

ask decide know remember forget explain learn understand wonder

We asked	how	to get	to the station.
Have you decided	where	to go	for your holidays?
I don't know	whether	to apply	for the job or not.
Do you understand	what	to do?	

Also **show/tell/ask/advise/teach** somebody **what/how/where** to do something:

- Can somebody **show me how to change** the film in this camera?
- Ask Jack. He'll **tell you what to do**.

Verb + **-ing** → Unit 53 Verb + object + **to ...** (want etc.) → Unit 55

Verb + **to ...** and **-ing** → Units 55C, 56–58

Verb + -ing or to ... 1 (remember/regret etc.)

A Some verbs are followed by **-ing** and some are followed by **to ...**.

Verbs usually followed by **-ing**:

admit	fancy	postpone
avoid	finish	risk
consider	imagine	stop
deny	keep (on)	suggest
enjoy	mind	

For examples, see Unit 53.

Verbs usually followed by **to ...**:

afford	fail	offer
agree	forget	plan
arrange	hope	promise
decide	learn	refuse
deserve	manage	threaten

For examples, see Unit 54.

B Some verbs can be followed by **-ing** or **to ...** with a difference of meaning:

remember

I **remember doing** something = I did it and now I remember this.

You **remember doing** something *after* you have done it.

- I know I locked the door. I clearly **remember locking** it.
(= I locked it, and now I remember this)
- He could **remember driving** along the road just before the accident, but he couldn't remember the accident itself.

I **remembered to do** something = I

remembered that I had to do it, so I did it.

You **remember to do** something *before* you do it.

- I **remembered to lock** the door, but I forgot to shut the windows.
(= I remembered that I had to lock it, and so I locked it)
- Please **remember to post** the letter.
(= don't forget to post it)

regret

I **regret doing** something = I did it and now I'm sorry about it:

- I now **regret saying** what I said. I shouldn't have said it.
- It began to get cold and he **regretted not wearing** his coat.

I **regret to say / to tell you / to inform** you = I'm sorry that I have to say (etc.):

- (*from a formal letter*) We **regret to inform** you that we cannot offer you the job.

go on

Go on doing something = continue with the same thing:

- The president paused for a moment and then **went on talking**.
- We need to change. We can't **go on living** like this.

Go on to do something = do or say something new:

- After discussing the economy, the president then **went on to talk** about foreign policy.

C The following verbs can be followed by **-ing** or **to ...**:

begin start continue intend bother

So you can say:

- It has **started raining**. *or* It has **started to rain**.
- John **intends buying** a house. *or* John **intends to buy** ...
- Don't **bother locking** the door. *or* Don't **bother to lock** ...

But normally we do not use **-ing** after **-ing**:

- It's **starting to rain**. (*not* It's starting raining)

Verb + -ing or to ... 2 (try/need/help)

A Try to ... and try -ing

Try to do = attempt to do, make an effort to do:

- I was very tired. I **tried to keep** my eyes open, but I couldn't.
- Please **try to be** quiet when you come home. Everyone will be asleep.

Try also means 'do something as an experiment or test'. For example:

- These cakes are delicious. You should **try** one. (= you should have one to see if you like it)
- We couldn't find anywhere to stay. We **tried** every hotel in the town, but they were all full. (= we went to every hotel to see if they had a room)

If try (with this meaning) is followed by a verb, we say try -ing:

- A: The photocopier doesn't seem to be working.
- B: **Try pressing** the green button.
(= press the green button - perhaps this will help to solve the problem)

Compare:

- I **tried to move** the table, but it was too heavy. (so I couldn't move it)
- I didn't like the way the furniture was arranged, so I **tried moving** the table to the other side of the room. But it still didn't look right, so I moved it back again.

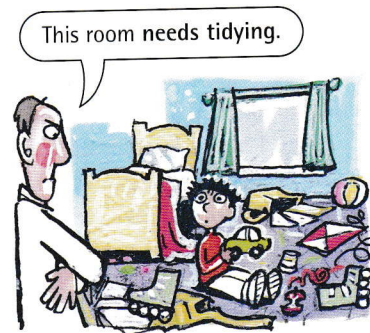
B Need to ... and need -ing

I need to do something = it is necessary for me to do it:

- I **need to take** more exercise.
- He **needs to work** harder if he wants to make progress.
- I don't **need to come** to the meeting, do I?

Something needs doing = it needs to be done:

- The batteries in the radio **need changing**.
(= they need to be changed)
- Do you think my jacket **needs cleaning**?
(= ... needs to be cleaned)
- It's a difficult problem. It **needs thinking** about very carefully. (= it needs to be thought about)



C Help and can't help

You can say help to do or help do (with or without to):

- Everybody **helped to clean up** after the party. *or*
Everybody **helped clean up** ...
- Can you **help me to move** this table? *or*
Can you **help me move** ...

I can't help doing something = I can't stop myself doing it:

- I don't like him, but he has a lot of problems. I **can't help feeling** sorry for him.
- She tried to be serious, but she **couldn't help laughing**.
(= she couldn't stop herself laughing)
- I'm sorry I'm so nervous. I **can't help it**.
(= I can't help being nervous)

Verb + -ing or to ... 3 (like / would like etc.)

A

Like / love / hate

When you talk about repeated actions, you can use **-ing** or **to ...** after these verbs.

So you can say:

- Do you **like getting up early?** *or* Do you **like to get up early?**
- Stephanie **hates flying.** *or* Stephanie **hates to fly.**
- I **love meeting people.** *or* I **love to meet people.**
- I **don't like being kept waiting.** *or* ... **like to be kept waiting.**
- I **don't like friends calling me at work.** *or* ... **friends to call me at work.**

but

(1) We use **-ing** (*not to ...*) when we talk about a situation that already exists (or existed).

For example:

- Paul lives in Berlin now. He **likes living** there. (He **likes living** in Berlin = He lives there and he likes it)
- Do you **like being** a student? (You are a student – do you like it?)
- The office I worked in was horrible. I **hated working** there. (I worked there and I hated it)

(2) There is sometimes a difference between **I like to do** and **I like doing**:

I like doing something = I do it and I enjoy it:

- I **like cleaning** the kitchen. (= I enjoy it.)

I like to do something = I think it is a good thing to do, but I don't necessarily enjoy it:

- It's not my favourite job, but I **like to clean** the kitchen as often as possible.

Note that **enjoy** and **mind** are always followed by **-ing** (*not to ...*):

- I **enjoy cleaning** the kitchen. (*not* I enjoy to clean)
- I **don't mind cleaning** the kitchen. (*not* I don't mind to clean)

B

Would like / would love / would hate / would prefer

Would like / would love etc. are usually followed by **to ...** :

- I'd **like** (= **would like**) to go away for a few days.
- Would you like to come** to dinner on Friday?
- I **wouldn't like to go** on holiday alone.
- I'd **love to meet** your family.
- Would you prefer to have** dinner now or later?

Compare **I like** and **I would like** (I'd like):

- I **like playing** tennis. / I **like to play** tennis. (= I like it in general)
- I'd **like to play** tennis today. (= I want to play today)

Would mind is always followed by **-ing** (*not to ...*):

- Would you mind closing** the door, please?

C

I would like to have done something = I regret now that I didn't or couldn't do it:

- It's a pity we didn't see Val when we were in London. I **would like to have seen** her again.
- We'd **like to have gone** away, but we were too busy at home.

You can use the same structure after **would love / would hate / would prefer**:

- Poor old David! I **would hate to have been** in his position.
- I'd **love to have gone** to the party, but it was impossible.

Prefer and would rather

A Prefer to do and prefer doing

You can use 'prefer to (do)' or 'prefer -ing' to say what you prefer in general:

- I don't like cities. I prefer to live in the country. *or* I prefer living in the country.

Study the differences in structure after **prefer**. We say:

	I prefer	something	to something else.
	I prefer	doing something	to doing something else.
<i>but</i>	I prefer	to do something	rather than (do) something else.

- I prefer this coat to the coat you were wearing yesterday.
- I prefer driving to travelling by train.
- but* I prefer to drive rather than travel by train.
- Sarah prefers to live in the country rather than (live) in a city.

B Would prefer (I'd prefer ...)

We use **would prefer** to say what somebody wants in a specific situation (not in general):

- 'Would you prefer tea or coffee?' 'Coffee, please.'

We say 'would prefer to do something' (*not* doing):

- 'Shall we go by train?' 'I'd prefer to drive.' (*not* I'd prefer driving)
- I'd prefer to stay at home tonight rather than go to the cinema.

C Would rather (I'd rather ...)

Would rather (do) = would prefer (to do). We use **would rather + infinitive** (without to).
Compare:

- 'Shall we go by train?' { 'I'd prefer to drive.'
'I'd rather drive.' (*not* to drive)
- 'Would you rather have tea or coffee?' 'Coffee, please.'

The negative is 'I'd rather not (do something)':

- I'm tired. I'd rather not go out this evening, if you don't mind.
- 'Do you want to go out this evening?' 'I'd rather not.'

We say 'would rather do something than do something else':

- I'd rather stay at home tonight than go to the cinema.

D I'd rather you did something

We say 'I'd rather you did something' (*not* I'd rather you do). For example:

- 'Shall I stay here?' 'I'd rather you came with us.' (= I would prefer this)
- 'I'll repair your bike tomorrow, OK?' 'I'd rather you did it today.'
- 'Are you going to tell them what happened?' 'No. I'd rather they didn't know.'
- Shall I tell them, or would you rather they didn't know?

In this structure we use the *past* (came, did etc.), but the meaning is present *not* past.

Compare:

- I'd rather make dinner now.
I'd rather you made dinner now. (*not* I'd rather you make)

I'd rather you **didn't** (do something) = I'd prefer you not to do it:

- I'd rather you didn't tell anyone what I said.
- 'Shall I tell Linda what happened?' 'I'd rather you didn't.'

Preposition (in/for/about etc.) + -ing

A If a preposition (**in/for/about** etc.) is followed by a verb, the verb ends in **-ing**:

	<i>preposition</i>	<i>verb (-ing)</i>	
Are you interested	in	working	for us?
I'm not very good	at	learning	languages.
Sue must be fed up	with	studying.	
What are the advantages	of	having	a car?
Thanks very much	for	inviting	me to your party.
How	about	meeting	for lunch tomorrow?
Why don't you go out	instead of	sitting	at home all the time?
Carol went to work	in spite of	feeling	ill.

You can also say 'instead of **somebody** doing something', 'fed up with **people** doing something' etc. :

- I'm fed up with **people** telling me what to do.

B Note the use of the following prepositions + **-ing**:

before -ing and **after -ing**:

- Before** going out, I phoned Sarah. (*not* Before to go out)
- What did you do **after** leaving school?

You can also say 'Before I went out ...' and '... after you left school'.

by -ing (to say *how* something happens):

- The burglars got into the house **by** breaking a window and climbing in.
- You can improve your English **by** reading more.
- She made herself ill **by** not eating properly.
- Many accidents are caused **by** people driving too fast.

without -ing:

- We ran ten kilometres **without** stopping.
- It was a stupid thing to say. I said it **without** thinking.
- She needs to work **without** people disturbing her. (*or* ... **without** being disturbed.)
- I have enough problems of my own **without** having to worry about yours.

C **To -ing** (look forward to doing something etc.)

To is often part of the *infinitive* (to do / to see etc.):

- We decided **to go** out.
- Would you like **to meet** for lunch tomorrow?

But **to** is also a *preposition* (like **in/for/about/from** etc.). For example:

- We drove from London **to** Edinburgh.
- I prefer tea **to** coffee.
- Are you looking forward **to** the weekend?

If a preposition is followed by a verb, the verb ends in **-ing**:

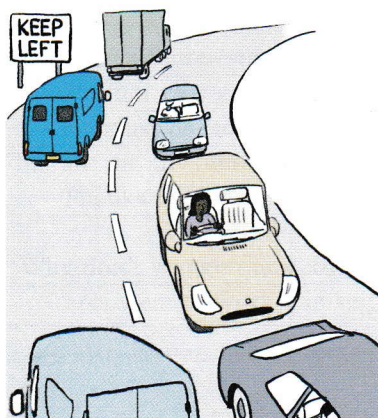
in doing **about meeting** **without stopping** (etc.)

So, when **to** is a preposition and it is followed by a verb, you must say **to -ing**:

- I prefer driving **to** travelling by train. (*not* to travel)
- Are you looking forward **to** going on holiday? (*not* looking forward to go)

Be/get used to something (I'm used to ...)

A Study this example situation:



Lisa is American, but she lives in Britain. When she first drove a car in Britain, she found it very difficult because she had to drive on the left, not on the right. Driving on the left was strange and difficult for her because:

She **wasn't used to it**.

She **wasn't used to driving** on the left.

But after a lot of practice, driving on the left became less strange. So:

She **got used to driving** on the left.

Now it's no problem for Lisa:

She **is used to driving** on the left.

B I'm used to something = it is not new or strange for me:

- Frank lives alone. He doesn't mind this because he has lived alone for 15 years. It is not strange for him. He **is used to it**. He **is used to living** alone.
- I bought some new shoes. They felt a bit strange at first because I **wasn't used to them**.
- Our new flat is on a very busy street. I expect we'll **get used to the noise**, but at the moment it's very disturbing.
- Diane has a new job. She has to get up much earlier now than before – at 6.30. She finds this difficult because she **isn't used to getting** up so early.
- Barbara's husband is often away from home. She doesn't mind this. She **is used to him** being away.

C After **be/get used** you cannot use the infinitive (**to do / to drive** etc.). We say:

- She is used **to driving** on the left. (*not* She is used to drive)

When we say 'I am used to something', **to** is a *preposition*, not a part of the infinitive.

So we say:

- Frank is used **to living** alone. (*not* Frank is used to live)
- Lisa had to get used **to driving** on the left. (*not* get used to drive)

D Do not confuse **I am used to doing** and **I used to do**:

I am used to (doing) something = it isn't strange or new for me:

- I **am used to the weather** in this country.
- I **am used to driving** on the left because I've lived in Britain a long time.

I used to do something = I did it regularly in the past but no longer do it. You can use this only for the past, not for the present.

The structure is 'I used to do' (*not* 'I am used to do'):

- I **used to drive** to work every day, but these days I usually go by bike.
- We **used to live** in a small village, but now we live in London.

Verb + preposition + -ing (succeed in -ing / accuse somebody of -ing etc.)

A Many verbs have the structure *verb + preposition (in/for/about etc.) + object*.
For example:

<i>verb + preposition + object</i>		
We talked	about	the problem.
You must apologise	for	what you said.

If the *object* is another verb, it ends in -ing:

<i>verb + preposition + -ing (object)</i>		
We talked	about	going to America.
You must apologise	for	not telling the truth.

Some more verbs with this structure:

succeed (in)	Have you succeeded	in	finding a job yet?
insist (on)	They insisted	on	paying for the meal.
think (of)	I'm thinking	of	buying a house.
dream (of)	I wouldn't dream	of	asking them for money.
approve (of)	He doesn't approve	of	swearing.
decide (against)	We have decided	against	moving to London.
feel (like)	Do you feel	like	going out tonight?
look forward (to)	I'm looking forward	to	meeting her.

You can also say 'approve of somebody doing something', 'look forward to somebody doing something':

- I don't approve of people killing animals for fun.
- We are all looking forward to Peter coming home.

B The following verbs can have the structure *verb + object + preposition + -ing*:

	<i>verb + object + preposition + -ing (object)</i>			
congratulate (on)	I congratulated	Liz	on	getting a new job.
accuse (of)	They accused	us	of	telling lies.
suspect (of)	Nobody suspected	the general	of	being a spy.
prevent (from)	What prevented	you	from	coming to see us?
stop (from)	The rain didn't stop	us	from	enjoying our holiday.
thank (for)	I forgot to thank	them	for	helping me.
excuse (for)	Excuse	me	for	being so late.
forgive (for)	Please forgive	me	for	not writing to you.

You can say 'stop somebody doing' or 'stop somebody from doing':

- You can't stop me doing what I want. *or* You can't stop me from doing what I want.

Some of these verbs are often used in the *passive*. For example:

- We were accused of telling lies.
- The general was suspected of being a spy.

Note that we say 'apologise to somebody for ...':

- I apologised to them for keeping them waiting. (*not* I apologised them)

Expressions + -ing

A

When these expressions are followed by a verb, the verb ends in **-ing**:**It's no use / It's no good**

- There's nothing you can do about the situation, so **it's no use** worrying about it.
- It's no good** trying to persuade me. You won't succeed.

There's no point in

- There's no point in** having a car if you never use it.
- There was no point in** waiting any longer, so we went.

But we usually say 'the point of doing something':

- What's the point of** having a car if you never use it?

It's (not) worth

- I live only a short walk from here, so **it's not worth** taking a taxi.
- Our flight was very early in the morning, so **it wasn't worth** going to bed.

You can say that a film is **worth seeing**, a book is **worth reading** etc. :

- What was the film like? Was it **worth seeing**?
- Thieves broke into the house but didn't take anything. There was nothing **worth stealing**.

B

Have difficulty -ing, have trouble -ingWe say 'have difficulty doing something' (*not* to do):

- I had no **difficulty** finding a place to live. (*not* difficulty to find)
- Did you have any **difficulty** getting a visa?
- People often have **difficulty** reading my writing.

You can also say 'have **trouble** doing something':

- I had no **trouble** finding a place to live.

C

We use **-ing** after:**a waste of money / a waste of time**

- It was a **waste of time** reading that book. It was rubbish.
- It's a **waste of money** buying things you don't need.

spend/waste (time)

- He **spent** hours trying to repair the clock.
- I **waste** a lot of time day-dreaming.

(be) busy

- She said she couldn't see me. She was too **busy** doing other things.

D

Go swimming / go fishing etc.We use **go -ing** for a number of activities (especially sports). For example, you can say:

go swimming go sailing go fishing go climbing go skiing go jogging

Also **go shopping, go sightseeing**

- How often do you **go swimming**?
- I'd like to **go skiing**.
- When did you last **go shopping**?
- I've never **been** sailing. (For gone and been, see Unit 7D.)

To ... , for ... and so that ... (purpose)

A

We use **to ...** to say why somebody does something (= the purpose of an action):

- 'Why are you going out?' 'To post a letter.'
- A friend of mine phoned **to invite** me to a party.
- We shouted **to warn** everybody of the danger.

We use **to ...** to say why something exists (= its purpose):

- This wall is **to keep** people out of the garden.
- The president has a team of bodyguards **to protect** him.

B

We use **to ...** to say what can be done or must be done with something:

- It's difficult to find a **place to park** in the centre. (= a place where you can park)
- Would you like **something to eat**?
- Have you got **much work to do**? (= work that you must do)
- I get lonely if there's **nobody to talk to**.
- I need **something to open** this bottle **with**.

Also **money/time/chance/opportunity/energy/courage** etc. to (do something):

- They gave us **some money to buy** some food.
- Do you have **much opportunity to practise** your English?
- I need **a few days to think** about your proposal.

C

For ... and to ...

Compare:

for + noun

- I'm going to Spain **for a holiday**.
- What would you like **for dinner**?
- Let's go to the pool **for a swim**.

to + verb

- I'm going to Spain **to learn** Spanish.
(*not for learn, not for learning*)
- What would you like **to eat**?
- Let's go to the pool **to have** a swim.

You can say '**for** (somebody) **to** (do something)':

- There weren't any chairs **for us to sit on**, so we had to sit on the floor.

You can use **for -ing** or **to ...** to talk about the general purpose of something, or what it is generally used for:

- Do you use this brush **for washing** the dishes? (*or ... to wash* the dishes?)

You can use **What ... for?** to ask about purpose:

- What** is this switch **for**?
- What** did you do that **for**?

D

So that

Sometimes you have to use **so that** for purpose.

We use **so that** (*not to ...*) especially

when the purpose is *negative* (**so that ... won't/wouldn't**):

- I hurried **so that** I **wouldn't** be late. (= because I didn't want to be late)
- Leave early **so that** you **won't** (*or don't*) miss the bus.

with **can** and **could** (**so that ... can/could**):

- She's learning English **so that** she **can** study in Canada.
- We moved to London **so that** we **could** see our friends more often.

Adjective + to ...

A Difficult to understand etc.

Compare sentences (a) and (b):

- Jim doesn't speak very clearly. { (a) It is difficult to understand **him**.
(b) **He** is difficult to understand.

Sentences (a) and (b) have the same meaning. Note that we say:

- He is difficult to understand. (*not* He is difficult to understand him.)

You can use the same structures with:

easy hard impossible dangerous safe expensive cheap nice
good interesting exciting

- Do you think it is **safe** (for us) to drink this water?
Do you think this water is **safe** (for us) to drink? (*not* to drink it)
- The questions in the exam were very difficult. It was **impossible** to answer them.
The questions in the exam were very difficult. They were **impossible** to answer.
(*not* to answer them)
- Jill has lots of interesting ideas. It's **interesting** to talk to her.
Jill is **interesting** to talk to. (*not* to talk to her.)

You can also use this structure with *adjective + noun*:

- This is a **difficult question** (for me) to answer. (*not* to answer it)

B (It's) nice of (you) to ...

You can say 'It's nice of somebody to do something':

- It was **nice of you** to take me to the airport. Thank you very much.

You can use many other adjectives in this way. For example:

kind clever sensible mean silly stupid careless unfair considerate:

- It's **silly of Mary** to give up her job when she needs the money.
 I think it was very **unfair of him** to criticise me.

C I'm sorry to ... / I was surprised to ... etc.

You can use *adjective + to ...* to say how somebody reacts to something:

- I was **sorry to hear** that your father is ill.

You can use many other adjectives in this way. For example:

happy glad pleased sad disappointed surprised amazed astonished relieved

- Was Julia **surprised to see** you?
 It was a long and tiring journey. We were **glad to get** home.

D The first / the next (etc.) + to ...

You can use *to ...* after **the first/the last, the next, the only, the second** (etc.):

- If I have any more news, you will be **the first** (person) to know.
 The next train to arrive at platform 4 will be the 10.50 to Cardiff.
 Everybody was late except me. I was **the only one** to arrive on time.

E You can say that something is sure/certain/likely/bound to happen:

- Carla is a very good student. She's **bound to pass** the exam. (= she is sure to pass)
 I'm **likely to be late** home this evening. (= I will probably be late home)

To ... (afraid to do) and preposition + -ing (afraid of -ing)

A Afraid to (do) and afraid of (do)ing

I am **afraid to do** something = I don't want to do it because it is dangerous or the result could be bad.

We use **afraid to do** for things we do intentionally; we can choose to do them or not:

- This part of town is dangerous. People are **afraid to walk** here at night.
(= they don't want to walk here because it is dangerous – so they don't)
- James was **afraid to tell** his parents what had happened.
(= he didn't want to tell them because he knew they would be angry, worried etc.)

I am **afraid of something happening** = it is possible that something bad will happen (for example, an accident).

We do not use **afraid of -ing** for things we do intentionally:

- The path was icy, so we walked very carefully. We were **afraid of falling**.
(= it was possible that we would fall – *not* we were afraid to fall)
- I don't like dogs. I'm always **afraid of being** bitten. (*not* afraid to be bitten)

So, you are **afraid to do** something because you are **afraid of something happening** as a result:

- I was **afraid to go** near the dog because I was **afraid of being** bitten.

B Interested in (do)ing and interested to (do)

I'm **interested in doing** something = I'm thinking of doing it, I would like to do it:

- Let me know if you're **interested in joining** the club. (*not* to join)
- I tried to sell my car, but nobody was **interested in buying** it. (*not* to buy)

We use **interested to ...** to say how somebody reacts to what they **hear/see/read/learn/know/find**. For example, 'I was **interested to hear** it' = I heard it and it was interesting for me:

- I was **interested to hear** that Tanya has left her job.
- Ask Mike for his opinion. I would be **interested to know** what he thinks. (= it would be interesting for me to know it)

This structure is the same as **surprised to ... / glad to ...** etc. (see Unit 65C):

- I was **surprised to hear** that Tanya has left her job.

C Sorry to (do) and sorry for/about (do)ing

We use **sorry to ...** to say we regret something that happens (see Unit 65C):

- I was **sorry to hear** that Nicky lost her job. (= I was sorry when I heard that ...)
- I've enjoyed my stay here. I'll be **sorry to leave**.

We also say **sorry to ...** to apologise at the time we do something:

- I'm **sorry to phone** you so late, but I need to ask you something.

You can use **sorry for** or **sorry about** (doing something) to apologise for something you did before:

- I'm **sorry for (or about) shouting** at you yesterday. (*not* sorry to shout)

You can also say:

- I'm **sorry I shouted** at you yesterday.

D We say:

I want to (do) / I'd like to (do)	<i>but</i>	I'm thinking of (do)ing / I dream of (do)ing
I failed to (do)	<i>but</i>	I succeeded in (do)ing
I allowed them to (do)	<i>but</i>	I prevented them from (do)ing
		I stopped them from (do)ing

For examples, see Units 54–55 and 62.

See somebody do and see somebody doing

A Study this example situation:

Tom got into his car and drove away. You saw this.

You can say:

- I saw Tom **get** into his car and **drive** away.

In this structure we use **get/drive/do** etc. (*not* to get / to drive / to do).

Somebody **did** something + I saw this

I saw somebody **do** something



TOM

But after a *passive* ('he was seen' etc.), we use to:

- He was seen **to** get in the car.

B Study this example situation:

Yesterday you saw Kate. She was waiting for a bus.

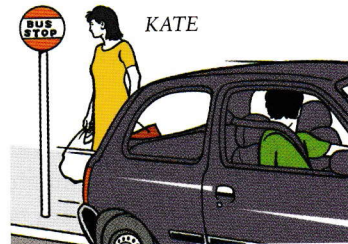
You can say:

- I saw Kate **waiting** for a bus.

In this structure we use **-ing** (waiting/doing etc.):

Somebody **was doing** something + I saw this

I saw somebody **doing** something



KATE

C Study the difference in meaning between the two structures:

I saw him **do** something = he **did** something (*past simple*) and I saw this. I saw the complete action from beginning to end:

- He **fell** off the wall. I saw this. → I saw him **fall** off the wall.
- The accident **happened**. Did you see it? → Did you see the accident **happen**?

I saw him **doing** something = he **was doing** something (*past continuous*) and I saw this. I saw him when he was in the middle of doing it. This does not mean that I saw the complete action:

- He **was walking** along the street. } I saw him **walking** along the street.
- I saw this when I drove past in my car. }

Sometimes the difference is not important and you can use either form:

- I've never seen her **dance**. or I've never seen her **dancing**.

D We use these structures with **see** and **hear**, and a number of other verbs:

- I didn't **hear** you **come** in. (you came in – I didn't hear this)
- Liz suddenly **felt** somebody **touch** her on the shoulder.
- Did you **notice** anyone **go** out?
- I could **hear** it **raining**. (it was raining – I could hear it)
- The missing children were last **seen** **playing** near the river.
- Listen** to the birds **singing**!
- Can you **smell** something **burning**?
- I **found** Sue in my room **reading** my letters.

-ing clauses (Feeling tired, I went to bed early.)

A

Study these situations:

Joe was playing football. He hurt his knee.

You can say:

- Joe hurt his knee **playing football**.

You were feeling tired. So you went to bed early.

You can say:

- Feeling tired**, I went to bed early.

'Playing football' and 'feeling tired' are **-ing** clauses.If the **-ing** clause is at the beginning of the sentence (as in the second example), we write a comma (,) after it.

B

When two things happen at the same time, you can use an **-ing** clause.

- Kate is in the kitchen **making coffee**.
(= she is in the kitchen *and* she is making coffee)
- A man ran out of the house **shouting**.
(= he ran out of the house *and* he was shouting)
- Do something! Don't just stand there **doing nothing!**

We also use **-ing** when one action happens during another action. We use **-ing** for the longer action:

- Joe hurt his knee **playing football**. (= while he was playing)
- Did you cut yourself **shaving?** (= while you were shaving)

You can also use **-ing** after **while** or **when**:

- Jim hurt his knee **while playing** football.
- Be careful **when crossing** the road. (= when you are crossing)

C

When one action happens before another action, we use **having (done)** for the first action:

- Having found** a hotel, we looked for somewhere to have dinner.
- Having finished** her work, she went home.

You can also say **after -ing**:

- After finishing** her work, she went home.

If one short action follows another short action, you can use the simple **-ing** form (**doing** instead of **having done**) for the first action:

- Taking** a key out of his pocket, he opened the door.

These structures are used more in written English than in spoken English.

D

You can use an **-ing** clause to explain something, or to say why somebody does something.The **-ing** clause usually comes at the beginning of the sentence:

- Feeling tired**, I went to bed early. (= because I felt tired)
- Being unemployed**, he hasn't got much money. (= because he is unemployed)
- Not having** a car, she finds it difficult to get around.
(= because she doesn't have a car)
- Having already seen** the film twice, I didn't want to go to the cinema.
(= because I had already seen it twice)

These structures are used more in written English than in spoken English.