

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 (object)*:

	<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)

62.1 Complete each sentence using only one word.

- 1 Our neighbours apologised for making so much noise.
- 2 I feel lazy. I don't feel like any work.
- 3 I wanted to go out alone, but Joe insisted on with me.
- 4 I'm fed up with my job. I'm thinking of something else.
- 5 We have decided against a new car because we can't really afford it.
- 6 I hope you get in touch with me soon. I'm looking forward to from you.
- 7 The weather was extremely bad and this prevented us from out.
- 8 The man who has been arrested is suspected of a false passport.
- 9 I think you should apologise to Sue for so rude to her.
- 10 Some parents don't approve of their children a lot of television.
- 11 I'm sorry I can't come to your party, but thank you very much for me.

62.2 Complete each sentence using a preposition + one of the following verbs (in the correct form):

carry cause escape go interrupt live see solve spend walk

- 1 Do you feel like going out this evening?
- 2 It took us a long time, but we finally succeeded the problem.
- 3 I've always dreamed in a small house by the sea.
- 4 The driver of the other car accused me the accident.
- 5 There's a fence around the lawn to stop people on the grass.
- 6 Excuse me you, but may I ask you something?
- 7 Where are you thinking your holiday this year?
- 8 The guards weren't able to prevent the prisoner
- 9 My bag wasn't very heavy, but Dan insisted it for me.
- 10 It's a pity Paul can't come to the party. I was really looking forward him.

62.3 Complete the sentences on the right.

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1 | 

YOU KEVIN | It was nice of you to help me. Thanks very much. | Kevin thanked <u>me for helping him</u> |
| 2 | 

ANN TOM | I'll drive you to the station. I insist. | Tom insisted |
| 3 | 

YOU DAN | I hear you got married. Congratulations! | Dan congratulated me |
| 4 | 

SUE JENNY | It was nice of you to come to see me. Thank you. | Jenny thanked |
| 5 | 

YOU KATE | I'm sorry I didn't phone earlier. | Kate apologised |
| 6 | 

YOU JANE | You're selfish. | Jane accused |

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 -ing**

We 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.)

63.1 Make sentences beginning **There's no point ...**

- 1 Why have a car if you never use it?
There's no point in having a car if you never use it.
- 2 Why work if you don't need money?

- 3 Don't try to study if you feel tired.

- 4 Why hurry if you've got plenty of time?

63.2 Complete the sentences on the right.

- 1 Shall we get a taxi home?
- 2 If you need help, why don't you ask Dave?
- 3 I don't really want to go out tonight.
- 4 Shall I phone Liz now?
- 5 Are you going to complain about what happened?
- 6 Do you ever read newspapers?
- 7 Do you want to keep these old clothes?

- No, it isn't far. It's not worth *getting a taxi* .
 It's no use He won't be able to do anything.
 Well, stay at home! There's no point if you don't want to.
 No, it's no good now. She won't be at home.
 No, it's not worth Nobody will do anything about it.
 No, I think it's a waste
 No, let's throw them away. They're not worth

63.3 Write sentences using **difficulty**.

- 1 I managed to get a visa, but it was difficult. I had difficulty *getting a visa*
- 2 I find it hard to remember people's names.
 I have difficulty
- 3 Lucy managed to get a job without difficulty.
 She had no
- 4 It won't be difficult to get a ticket for the game.
 You won't have any

63.4 Complete the sentences. Use **only one word** each time.

- 1 It's a waste of money *buying* things you don't need.
- 2 Every morning I spend about an hour the newspaper.
- 3 'What's Sue doing?' 'She's going away tomorrow, so she's busy
- 4 I think you waste too much time television.
- 5 There's a beautiful view from that hill. It's worth to the top.
- 6 It's no use for the job. I know I wouldn't get it.
- 7 Just stay calm. There's no point in angry.

63.5 Complete these sentences with the following (with the verb in the correct form):

go riding **go sailing** go shopping go skiing go swimming

- 1 Barry lives by the sea and he's got a boat, so he often *goes sailing* .
- 2 It was a very hot day, so we in the lake.
- 3 There's plenty of snow in the mountains, so we'll be able to
- 4 Helen has got two horses. She regularly.
- 5 'Where's Dan?' 'He's There were a few things he needed to buy.'