

## 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)
- Sam **suggested going** to the movies. (*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 finish avoid consider admit miss involve  
quit postpone delay imagine deny risk practice

- Suddenly everybody **stopped talking**. There was silence.
- I'll do the shopping when I've **finished cleaning** the apartment.
- He tried to **avoid answering** my question.
- Have you ever **considered going** to live in another country?

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

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

### B

We also use **-ing** after:

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

- Paula has **given up trying** to lose weight.
- We have to do something. We can't **go on living** like this!
- Don't **keep interrupting** me while I'm talking. (*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.
- "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 waiting)

### 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**) it.

For **regret**, see Unit 53B.

### 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** . . .)
- Sam **suggested that we go** to the movies. (*or* Sam **suggested going** . . .)

For **suggest**, see also Unit 32.

# Exercises

## 50.1 Complete each sentence with one of these verbs:

answer apply be get listen make splash 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 out into the street without looking, you risk \_\_\_\_\_ run over.
7. Jim is 65, but he isn't going to retire yet. He wants to go on \_\_\_\_\_.
8. I don't mind you \_\_\_\_\_ the phone as long as you pay for all your calls.
9. If you use the shower, try and avoid \_\_\_\_\_ water on the floor.
10. I've put off \_\_\_\_\_ the letter several times. I really have to do it today.
11. What a mean thing to do! Can you imagine anybody \_\_\_\_\_ so mean?
12. Sarah gave up \_\_\_\_\_ to find a job in this country and decided to go abroad.

## 50.2 Complete the sentences for each situation using -ing.

- |    |                             |   |                            |  |
|----|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|
| 1. | What should we do?          |    | We could go to the movies. | She suggested <u>going to the movies</u> . |
| 2. | You were driving too fast.  |    | Yes, I was. Sorry!         | She admitted _____.                        |
| 3. | Let's go swimming.          |  | Good idea!                 | She suggested _____.                       |
| 4. | You broke my CD player.     |  | No, I didn't!              | He denied _____.                           |
| 5. | Can you wait a few minutes? |  | Sure, no problem.          | They didn't mind _____.                    |

## 50.3 Complete the sentences so that they mean the same as the first sentence. Use -ing.

1. We can't live like this anymore. We can't go on living like this.
2. It's not a good idea to travel during rush hour.  
It's best to avoid \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Should we leave tomorrow instead of today?  
Should we postpone \_\_\_\_\_ until \_\_\_\_\_?
4. The driver of the car said it was true that he didn't have a license.  
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 \_\_\_\_\_?

## 50.4 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 afraid there aren't any chairs. I hope you don't mind \_\_\_\_\_.
3. It was a beautiful day, so I suggested \_\_\_\_\_.
4. It was very funny. I couldn't stop \_\_\_\_\_.
5. My car isn't very reliable. It keeps \_\_\_\_\_.