

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

A

like love hate can't bear can't stand

After these verbs you can use *to . . . (infinitive)* or *-ing*.

We normally use *-ing (not to . . .)* for a situation that already exists or existed. For example:

- I live in Vancouver now. I **like living** there. (*not* I like to live there)
- Do you **like being** a student? (You are a student now.)
- That office was horrible. I **hated working** there. (I worked there and hated it.)

In other situations, you can use *to . . .* or *-ing*. *To . . .* is more usual:

- | | | |
|---|-----------|---|
| ■ I like to get up early. | <i>or</i> | I like getting up early. |
| ■ Ann hates to fly . | <i>or</i> | Ann hates flying . |
| ■ I love to meet people. | <i>or</i> | I love meeting people. |
| ■ I don't like friends to call me at work. | <i>or</i> | I don't like friends calling me at work. |
| ■ She can't bear to be alone. | <i>or</i> | She can't bear being alone. |

B

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

- I **enjoy meeting** people. (*not* I enjoy to meet)
- Tom **doesn't mind working** at night. (*not* mind to work)

Compare:

- I **enjoy cooking**.
- I **don't mind cooking**.
- I **like to cook**. *or* I **like cooking**.

C

Would like / would love / would hate / would prefer are usually followed by *to . . . (infinitive)*:

- I **would like to be** rich.
- **Would you like to come** to dinner on Friday?
- I'd **love (= would love) to be able** to travel around the world.
- **Would you prefer to have** dinner now or later?

Compare I like and I would like:

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

Note that *would mind* is followed by *-ing (not to . . .)*:

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

D

You can also say "I would like to have done something" (= I regret now that I didn't or couldn't do something):

- It's too bad we **didn't see** Johnny when we were in Montreal. I **would like to have seen** him again.
- We'd **like to have gone** on vacation, but we didn't have enough money.

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

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

Exercises

55.1 Write sentences with *like + -ing*.

1. I'm a student. I like it. *I like being a student.*
2. Ellen and Joel live in Atlanta. They like it. They _____.
3. I used to work in a supermarket. I didn't like it very much.
I _____.
4. Ryan teaches biology. He likes it. He _____.
5. Rachel is studying medicine. She likes it. She _____.
6. Dan is famous. He doesn't like this. He _____.

55.2 Write sentences about yourself. Say whether you like or don't like these activities.

Choose one of these verbs for each sentence:

like / don't like don't mind enjoy hate love

1. (fly) *I don't like to fly. OR I don't like flying.*
2. (play cards) _____
3. (do the ironing) _____
4. (go to museums) _____
5. (lie on the beach all day) _____

55.3 How would you feel about doing these jobs? Use one of these in your sentences:

I'd like / I wouldn't like I'd love I'd hate I wouldn't mind

1. (a teacher) *I wouldn't like to be a teacher.*
2. (a dentist) _____
3. (a hair stylist) _____
4. (an airline pilot) _____
5. (a tour guide) _____

55.4 Write an appropriate verb in the correct form, *-ing* or *to . . .* Sometimes either form is possible.

1. It's nice to be with other people, but sometimes I enjoy *being* alone.
2. I'm not quite ready yet. Do you mind _____ a little longer?
3. When I was a child, I hated _____ to bed early.
4. I don't like _____ letters. I can never think what to write.
5. I need a new job. I can't stand _____ here anymore.
6. I would love _____ to your wedding, but I'm afraid I can't.
7. Caroline never wears a hat. She doesn't like _____ hats.
8. "Would you like _____ down?" "No, thanks. I'll stand."
9. I don't like _____ in this part of town. I want to live somewhere else.
10. Do you have a minute? I'd like _____ to you about something.
11. Robert misses his car when it's at the mechanic's. He can't stand _____ without his car for even one day.

55.5 Write sentences like those in Section D. Use the verb in parentheses.

1. It's too bad I couldn't go to the wedding. (like) *I would like to have gone to the wedding.*
2. It's too bad I didn't see the program. (like) _____
3. I'm glad I didn't lose my watch. (hate) _____
4. It's too bad I didn't meet Ann. (love) _____
5. I'm glad I wasn't alone. (not / like) _____
6. It's a shame I couldn't travel by train. (prefer) _____