

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:

verb + preposition + object

We talked	about	the problem.
You should apologize	for	what you said.

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

verb + preposition + -ing (object)

We talked	about	going to South America.
She apologized*	for	not telling the truth.

* We say "apologize to somebody for":

- She apologized to me for not telling the truth. (*not* she apologized me)

Here are some more verbs with this structure:

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

With some verbs, you can use the structure *verb + preposition + somebody + -ing*:

- She doesn't approve of me (*or my*) gambling.
- We are all looking forward to Bob (*or Bob's*) coming home.
- They insisted on me (*or my*) staying with them.

B

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

verb + object + preposition + -ing

congratulate (on)	I congratulated	Ann	on	getting a new job.
accuse (of)	They accused	me	of	telling lies.
suspect (of)	Nobody suspected	the man	of	being a spy.
prevent (from)	What prevented	him	from	coming to see us?
keep (from)	The noise keeps	me	from	falling asleep.
stop (from)	The police stopped	everyone	from	leaving the building.
thank (for)	I forgot to thank	them	for	helping me.
excuse (for)	Excuse	me	for	not returning your call.

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

- They were accused of telling lies.
- The man was suspected of being a spy.
- We were kept from seeing Frank in the hospital.

Exercises

59.1 Complete each sentence using only one word.







- Our neighbors apologized for *making* so much noise.
- I feel lazy. I don't feel like _____ any work.
- I wanted to go out alone, but Joe insisted on _____ with me.
- I'm fed up with my job. I'm thinking of _____ something else.
- We have decided against _____ a new car because we really can't afford it.
- I hope you write to me soon. I'm looking forward to _____ from you.
- The weather was extremely bad, and this kept us from _____ out.
- The man who was arrested is suspected of _____ a false passport.
- I think you should apologize to Sue for _____ so rude to her.
- Some parents don't approve of their children _____ a lot of television.
- I'm sorry I can't come to your party, but thank you for _____ me.

59.2 Complete the sentences using a preposition + one of the following verbs (in the correct form):

cause escape go help interrupt live play solve spend walk

- Do you feel *like going* _____ out tonight?
- It took us a long time, but we finally succeeded _____ the problem.
- I've always dreamed _____ in a small house by the sea.
- The driver of the other car accused me _____ the accident.
- There was a fence around the lawn to stop people _____ on the grass.
- Excuse me _____ you, but may I ask you something?
- Where are you thinking _____ your vacation this year?
- The guards weren't able to prevent the prisoner _____.
- I wanted to cook the meal by myself, but Dave insisted _____ me.
- I'm sorry we've had to cancel our tennis game tomorrow. I was really looking forward _____.

59.3 Complete the sentences on the right.

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|----|---|--|--|
| 1. |  | It was nice of you to help me. Thanks very much. | Kevin thanked <i>me for helping him</i> _____. |
| | YOU KEVIN | | |
| 2. |  | I'll take you to the station. I insist. | Tom insisted _____. |
| | ANN TOM | | |
| 3. |  | I hear you got married. Congratulations! | Jim congratulated me _____. |
| | YOU JIM | | |
| 4. |  | It was nice of you to come to see me. Thank you. | Mrs. Bond thanked _____. |
| | SUE MRS. BOND | | |
| 5. |  | I'm sorry I didn't phone you earlier. | Amy apologized _____. |
| | YOU AMY | | |
| 6. |  | You're selfish. | Tracy accused _____. |
| | YOU TRACY | | |