

# 14

## The *-ing* form Form, uses, and contexts

- Some examples of the *-ing* form:  
*I enjoy listening to music.*  
*Would you mind waiting?*
- We use the *-ing* form of a verb after various common verbs:  
*He hates getting up early in the morning.*  
*My computer keeps breaking down.*  
*She loves travelling.*  
*Please stop making so much noise.*
- We use **go + -ing** in various common phrases:  
*Let's go swimming.*
- We can use the *-ing* form of a verb as the subject of a sentence. When the *-ing* form is the subject, we can also use an object after it:  
*Swimming is a good form of exercise.*  
*Travelling long distances every day is very tiring.*

### Grammar in action

- We use the *-ing* form after various verbs connected with liking or not liking something: **like, love, enjoy, hate**  
*I like walking in the countryside.*
- We use the *-ing* form after **mind** in negative statements to say that we are not angry or unhappy about doing something:  
*I don't mind lending you some money.*

We use **Do/Would you mind** with the *-ing* form in questions to ask someone politely to do something. Here, a shop assistant is talking to a customer in a busy shop:

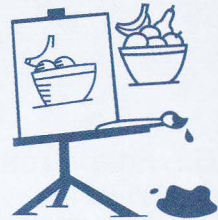
*Would you mind waiting, please?*

- We use the *-ing* form after **keep** to say that something happens regularly or too often:  
*My team keeps losing matches.*

- We use the *-ing* form after **stop** to say that something does not continue:  
*The phone stopped ringing before I could answer it.*

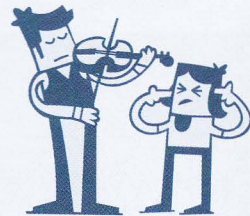
We use the *-ing* form after **finish** to talk about completing an action or process that continues for a period of time:

*She hasn't finished painting the picture.*



- We use **go + -ing** to talk about various activities and hobbies that we go out of our homes to do:  
*He goes fishing in the river near where I go swimming.*

- We use the *-ing* form as the subject of a sentence when the subject is an action or situation, not a person or thing:  
*Playing the violin is very difficult.*



### A Going to rock festivals

Complete the blog about rock festivals, using a positive, negative or *to* infinitive form of the verb in brackets and the *-ing* form of the correct verb from the list.

be work sit listen do go travel spend wait join get

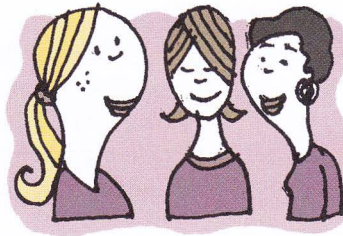
Next month I'm going to a rock festival that's taking place quite a long way from where I live. I really *like going*.....<sup>0</sup> (like) to these festivals and I've been to a few before. My friend Jake usually comes with me, but he's decided .....<sup>1</sup> (stop) me. He says that he .....<sup>2</sup> (like) down in muddy fields, he .....<sup>3</sup> (hate) in long queues for food and he .....<sup>4</sup> (enjoy) long distances to get there and back. But I'm going .....<sup>5</sup> (keep) it because I really .....<sup>6</sup> (love) to the music, I .....<sup>7</sup> (enjoy) in a big crowd of people and I .....<sup>8</sup> (mind) wet when it rains. So, when I .....<sup>9</sup> (finish) in the shop this week, I'm going to set off on my journey to the festival. I really .....<sup>10</sup> (like) my free time out in the countryside listening to music with thousands of people.



## B Busy people

Lucy and her friends do a lot of activities. Look at the pictures and complete the sentences using the correct tense of *go* and the *-ing* form of the correct verb.

- 0 I sometimes go cycling with a friend at weekends.
- 1 We ..... in the mountains two months ago.
- 2 I sometimes ..... with my friend Hannah.
- 3 I ..... with some friends last night.
- 4 We often ..... in the local pool.
- 5 I ..... in the winter but I wasn't very good at it.



## C Living in a new city

Suzanne has gone to live in a big city in her own country. Here, she talks about her experience. Complete what she says, using the *-ing* form of the correct verbs from the box.

cross be understand meet drive leave find shop go park travel

I came to live in this city about a year ago. At first, it wasn't easy. Finding<sup>0</sup> somewhere to live was difficult. ....<sup>1</sup> people was another problem, because they speak with a strong accent in this part of the country. But things are better now. I'm living in an apartment in the centre of the city. ....<sup>2</sup> is easy and I can get anything I want. ....<sup>3</sup> is a bit tiring because I have to go on crowded trains to the place where I work. I have a car but ....<sup>4</sup> is a problem in this area. And ....<sup>5</sup> here is risky because there's so much traffic – ....<sup>6</sup> the road can be dangerous, too. But ....<sup>7</sup> in the centre of the city is great. ....<sup>8</sup> out is great fun and ....<sup>9</sup> people is easy. I'm really glad I came here. ....<sup>10</sup> my home town wasn't an easy thing to do but I don't regret it.

## D A special offer

Complete the conversation between two friends, using the correct phrases from the box and the *-ing* form of the verbs.

try hate/do love/shop stop/complain mind/come not enjoy/be like/wear not like/buy go/shop keep/talk not mind/help not like/spend not finish/tell mind/listen

- OLIVIA Do you like wearing<sup>0</sup> nice clothes?
- CLAUDIA Yes, you know I do. But I .....<sup>1</sup> them.
- OLIVIA Are you busy this afternoon? .....<sup>2</sup> to the shops with me?
- CLAUDIA Look, I .....<sup>3</sup> you with most things but I don't want to .....<sup>4</sup>. You know I .....<sup>5</sup> that. It's so boring. I .....<sup>6</sup> my time in shopping centres and I .....<sup>7</sup> in crowds. ....<sup>8</sup> on clothes is horrible, too.
- OLIVIA .....<sup>9</sup>! I .....<sup>10</sup> you why I want you to come. ....<sup>11</sup> to me?
- CLAUDIA OK, sorry, .....<sup>12</sup>.
- OLIVIA Well, it's your birthday soon. I thought I'd buy something special for you.
- CLAUDIA Ah, why didn't you say that before? I .....<sup>13</sup>! When can we go?

Find words in exercise D that mean the opposite of these words:

- A unpleasant, horrible
- B ordinary, usual, typical
- C interesting, exciting
- D free, doing nothing

WORD FOCUS

- 5 Some examples of the **to infinitive** and the **-ing** form:

*I **promised to help** her.*  
*I **didn't mind helping** her.*  
*I **like learning** English.*  
*I'd **like to learn** Spanish.*

- 6 We use the **to infinitive** after some verbs and the **-ing** form after other verbs:

*I **want to have** something to eat.*  
*I **enjoy eating** good food.*

(For more examples of verbs followed by the **to infinitive** see p. 50, and for more examples of verbs followed by the **-ing** form see p. 54.)

- 7 We can use the **-ing** form with **like** but we always use the **to infinitive** with **would like**:

### like + -ing

*I **like living** in Paris.*

### would like + to + infinitive

*I **would like to live** in Paris.*

We usually use the short form of **would like**:

*I'd **like to live** in Paris.*

TIP

- 8 We can use the **to infinitive** (not the **-ing** form) to link two parts of a sentence:

*I went to the library **to borrow** a book.*

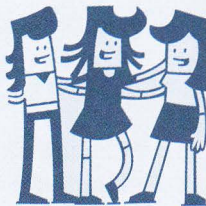
We can use the **-ing** form as the subject of a sentence:

***Borrowing** books from the library is easy.*

## Grammar in action

- 7 We use the **-ing** form after **like** to talk about actions that we actually do and situations that actually exist. We use **like + -ing** to say that we enjoy these actions and situations in general and they make us feel good:

*I **like spending time** with my friends.*



- 8 We use the **to infinitive** after **would like** to say that we want to do something that we are not doing, or to say that we want a situation that is not happening. **Would like** is more polite than **want**:

*I'd **like to spend time** with my friends.*



- 9 We use the **to infinitive** to talk about the reason for or purpose of an action – when we explain why someone does something, for example:

*He went to a gym **to get fit***

We can put the **to infinitive** clause at the beginning of the sentence, with the same meaning:

***To get fit**, he went to a gym.*

## E The picnic

Julie and Ruth are having a picnic together. Complete their conversation using positive or negative forms of **like** or **would like** and the correct verbs in the box. Use short forms if possible.

earn spend give up sit be come happen talk work have go

JULIE *I **like sitting here***<sup>0</sup>, it's very pleasant.

RUTH Me too. And .....<sup>1</sup> time with good friends. ....<sup>2</sup>  
 on picnics more often but it isn't always possible. ....<sup>3</sup> to  
 places like this and .....<sup>4</sup> to friends like you when we're able to  
 do it.

JULIE I agree. ....<sup>5</sup> less. What .....<sup>6</sup> to you in the  
 future?

RUTH Me? .....<sup>7</sup> a lot of money and .....<sup>8</sup> work  
 completely! .....<sup>9</sup> under pressure and I'm under pressure at work  
 a lot.

JULIE I know what you mean. ....<sup>10</sup> more free time.

## F Plans with John



Charlie has a friend called John. Complete what he says about a situation with John, by putting in the *to* infinitive or *-ing* form of the correct verbs in the box.

stop plan phone discuss help do get make speak leave fix

I rang John *to discuss*<sup>0</sup> something important with him. ....<sup>1</sup>  
in touch with John isn't always easy because he's a very busy man. ....<sup>2</sup>  
him at a time when he can talk is often difficult. When I phoned ....<sup>3</sup> to  
him, he was out. Then I phoned ....<sup>4</sup> him a message. Eventually, he called  
me back. I said that I wanted to speak to him ....<sup>5</sup> the arrangements  
for his visit to me. ....<sup>6</sup> isn't something that John is good at and  
.....<sup>7</sup> decisions sometimes takes him a long time. ....<sup>8</sup> me  
plan for his visit, I made him agree on a definite weekend. ....<sup>9</sup> that took  
a long time but I managed to do it in the end. And ....<sup>10</sup> him forgetting  
all about it, I sent him a message with the dates in it.

## G Plans for a tour of Europe

Complete this text about travel plans, using the *to* infinitive or *-ing* forms of the verbs in brackets.

I like *travelling*<sup>0</sup> (travel) and I've done quite a lot of it. Last year, I  
decided .....<sup>1</sup> (take) a big trip around Europe. ....<sup>2</sup>  
(save) money for the trip, I stopped .....<sup>3</sup> (go) to night clubs. I like  
.....<sup>4</sup> (have) fun in those places and I enjoy .....<sup>5</sup>  
(spend) time with my friends there, but I wanted .....<sup>6</sup> (keep) my  
money for the trip. So I didn't go .....<sup>7</sup> (dance) at all and in fact I didn't  
go out much. And I managed .....<sup>8</sup> (save) enough money for the trip.  
.....<sup>9</sup> (choose) which countries I would visit wasn't easy. I wanted  
.....<sup>10</sup> (experience) lots of places because I love .....<sup>11</sup>  
(see) new places, and I think that .....<sup>12</sup> (find out) about different  
cultures is fantastic. ....<sup>13</sup> (choose) the countries I would visit,  
I borrowed some books from the library and tried .....<sup>14</sup> (learn)  
as much as I could about different places. Then I made a list of the countries I  
planned .....<sup>15</sup> (visit). I don't mind .....<sup>16</sup> (stay)  
in cheap hotels so .....<sup>17</sup> (find) places to stay didn't worry me. I  
wanted the places .....<sup>18</sup> (be) interesting.  
I finished .....<sup>19</sup> (do) my research and then I booked my flight from  
here. ....<sup>20</sup> (get) a cheap flight, I did a lot of research online. In  
fact, .....<sup>21</sup> (book) a cheap flight wasn't at all difficult because there  
were lots available. ....<sup>22</sup> (organize) my timetable was great fun,  
and I looked in lots of guidebooks .....<sup>23</sup> (help) me decide what to  
do in the different places I visited.  
And then I went on my trip and it was great. I'd like .....<sup>24</sup> (travel)  
all the time and I'm hoping .....<sup>25</sup> (be) able to go on a trip to Africa  
next year.

**OVER TO YOU** Now go to page 124.