

Preposition (in/for/about etc.) + -ing

A If a preposition (**in/for/about** etc.) is followed by a verb, the verb ends in **-ing**:

	preposition	verb (-ing)	
Are you interested	in	working	for us?
I'm not good	at	learning	languages.
Kate must be fed up	with	studying	
What are the advantages	of	having	a car?
Thanks very much	for	inviting	me to your party.
How	about	meeting	for lunch tomorrow?
Why don't you go out	instead of	sitting	at home all the time?
Amy went to work	in spite of	feeling	ill.

You can also say 'instead of **somebody** doing something', 'fed up with **people** doing something' etc. :

- ☐ I'm fed up with **people** telling me what to do.

B We say:

before -ing, after -ing:

- ☐ **Before going** out, I phoned Sarah. (*not* Before to go out)
- ☐ What did you do **after leaving** school?

You can also say '**Before I went** out ...' and '... **after you left** school'.

by -ing (to say *how* something happens):

- ☐ You can improve your English **by reading** more.
- ☐ She made herself ill **by not eating** properly.
- ☐ Many accidents are caused **by** people **driving** too fast.
- ☐ The burglars got into the house **by breaking** a window and **climbing** in.

without -ing:

- ☐ We ran ten kilometres **without stopping**.
- ☐ It was a stupid thing to say. I said it **without thinking**.
- ☐ She needs to work **without** people **disturbing** her. *or* ... **without being** disturbed.
- ☐ I have enough problems of my own **without having** to worry about yours.

C **to + -ing** (look forward **to doing** something etc.)

We often use **to + infinitive** (**to do / to see** etc.):

- ☐ We decided **to travel** by train.
- ☐ Would you like **to meet** for lunch tomorrow?

But **to** is also a *preposition* (like **in/for/about/with** etc.). For example:

- ☐ We went from Paris **to** Geneva.
- ☐ I prefer tea **to** coffee.
- ☐ Are you looking forward **to** the weekend?

If we use a *preposition + verb*, the verb ends in **-ing**:

- ☐ I'm fed up **with travelling** by train.
- ☐ How **about going** away this weekend?

So, when **to** is a preposition and it is followed by a verb, we use **to -ing**:

- ☐ I prefer driving **to travelling** by train. (*not* to travel)
- ☐ Are you looking forward **to going** on holiday? (*not* looking forward to go)

Exercises

60.1 Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first.

- Why is it useful to have a car?
What are the advantages of having a car ?
- I don't intend to apply for the job.
I have no intention of
- Helen has a good memory for names.
Helen is good at
- You probably won't win the lottery. You have little chance.
You have little chance of
- Did you get into trouble because you were late?
Did you get into trouble for ?
- We didn't eat at home. We went to a restaurant instead.
We went to a restaurant instead of
- We got into the exhibition. We didn't have to queue.
We got into the exhibition without
- Amy is 90 years old, but she's fit and healthy.
Amy is fit and healthy despite

60.2 Complete the sentences using **by -ing. Choose from these verbs:**

borrow break drive press put stand

- The burglars got into the house by breaking a window.
- I was able to reach the top shelf on a chair.
- You turn on the computer the button at the back.
- Kevin got himself into financial trouble too much money.
- You can put people's lives in danger too fast.
- We made the room look nicer some pictures on the walls.

60.3 Complete the sentences with a suitable word. Use only one word each time.

- We ran ten kilometres without stopping.
- Dan left the hotel without his bill.
- It's a nice morning. How about for a walk?
- You need to think carefully before an important decision.
- It was a long trip. We were tired after on a train for 36 hours.
- I'm not looking forward to away. I'd prefer to stay here.
- I was annoyed because the decision was made without anybody me.
- After the same job for ten years, Ellie felt she needed a change.
- We got lost because we went straight on instead of left.
- I like these pictures you took. You're good at pictures.
- Can you touch your toes without your knees?
- We've decided to sell our car. Are you interested in it?

60.4 For each situation, write a sentence with **I'm (not) looking forward to.**

- You are going on holiday next week. How do you feel?
I'm looking forward to going on holiday.
- A good friend of yours is coming to visit you soon. It will be good to see her again. How do you feel?
I'm
- You're going to the dentist tomorrow. You don't enjoy visits to the dentist. How do you feel?
I'm not
- Rachel doesn't like school, but she's leaving next summer. How does she feel?
.....
- Joe and Helen are moving to a new apartment soon. It's much nicer than where they live now.
How do they feel?