

# Verb + preposition + -ing (succeed in -ing / insist on -ing etc.)

## A

We use some verbs + preposition + object. For example:

verb + preposition + object

We <b>talked</b> I <b>apologised</b>	<b>about</b> <b>for</b>	the problem. what I said.
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If the object is another verb, we use -ing:

verb + preposition + -ing

We <b>talked</b> You should <b>apologise</b>	<b>about</b> <b>for</b>	<b>going</b> to South America. not <b>telling</b> the truth.
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You can use these verbs in the same way:

**approve of**  
**decide against**  
**dream of**  
**feel like**  
**insist on**  
**look forward to**  
**succeed in**  
**think of/about**

He doesn't <b>approve</b> We have <b>decided</b> I wouldn't <b>dream</b> I don't <b>feel</b> They <b>insisted</b> Are you <b>looking forward</b> Has Paul <b>succeeded</b> I'm <b>thinking</b>	<b>of</b> <b>against</b> <b>of</b> <b>like</b> <b>on</b> <b>to</b> <b>in</b> <b>of/about</b>	<b>swearing.</b> <b>moving</b> to London. <b>asking</b> them for money. <b>going</b> out tonight. <b>paying</b> for the meal. <b>going</b> away? <b>finding</b> a job yet? <b>buying</b> a house.
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You can also say 'approve of **somebody** doing something', 'look forward to **somebody** doing something' etc.:

- I don't approve **of people killing** animals as a sport.
- We are all looking forward **to Andy coming** home next week.

## B

Some verbs can have the structure **verb + object + preposition + -ing**.

For example:

verb + object + preposition + -ing

**accuse ... of**  
**congratulate ... on**  
**prevent ... from**  
**stop ... from**  
**suspect ... of**  
**thank ... for**

He <b>accused</b> We <b>congratulated</b> What <b>prevented</b> The rain didn't <b>stop</b> Nobody <b>suspected</b> I <b>thanked</b>	me Lisa you us the general everyone	<b>of</b> <b>on</b> <b>from</b> <b>from</b> <b>of</b> <b>for</b>	<b>telling</b> lies. <b>winning</b> the first prize. <b>coming</b> to see us? <b>enjoying</b> our holiday. <b>being</b> a spy. <b>helping</b> me.
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You can say '**stop** somebody **doing**' or '**stop** somebody **from doing**':

- You can't **stop** me **doing** what I want. or You can't **stop** me **from doing** ...

Note this example with **not -ing**:

- He accused me of **not telling** the truth.

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

- We **were accused of telling** lies. (or ... **accused of lying**.)
- The general **was suspected of being** a spy.

Note that we say '**apologise to somebody** for ...':

- I **apologised to them** for keeping them waiting. (not I **apologised them**)

## Exercises

### 62.1 Complete the sentences. Use only one word each time.

- Our neighbours apologised 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 can't afford a car right now, so we've decided against ..... one.
- It took us a long time, but we finally succeeded in ..... the problem.
- I've always dreamed of ..... a small house by the sea.
- It's great that Amy and Sam are coming to visit us. I'm looking forward to ..... them again.

### 62.2 Complete the sentences. Use a preposition + one of these verbs (in the correct form):

<b>be</b>	<b>eat</b>	<b>get</b>	<b>go out</b>	<b>invite</b>	<b>steal</b>
<b>take off</b>	<b>tell</b>	<b>try</b>	<b>use</b>	<b>walk</b>	

- I don't feel ... like going out ... this evening. I'm too tired.
- The police stopped the car because they suspected the driver ..... it.
- Our flight was delayed. Bad weather prevented the plane ..... .
- My phone is very old. I'm thinking ..... a new one.
- I didn't want to hear the story but Dan insisted ..... me anyway.
- I'm getting hungry. I'm really looking forward ..... something.
- I think you should apologise to Sarah ..... so rude.
- There's a fence around the lawn to stop people ..... on the grass.
- I'm sorry I can't come to your party, but thank you very much ..... me.
- The man who has been arrested is suspected ..... a false passport.
- I did my best. Nobody can accuse me ..... not .....

### 62.3 Complete the sentences on the right.



Kevin thanked ... me for helping him .....



Tom insisted ..... Ann .....



Dan congratulated me .....



Jen thanked .....



Kate apologised .....



Jane accused .....