

> -ing forms as subjects and objects

Use of English

The -ing form of the verb can be used as a noun or in a noun phrase. The noun or noun phrase can be the subject of a verb: **Swimming** is fun. **Learning languages** is useful. Or it can be the object of a verb: I like **travelling**. I enjoy **watching foreign films**.

There are spelling rules for forming the -ing form.

- With most verbs, we just add -ing: talk / talking.
- With verbs ending in one e, we delete the e and add -ing: write / writing.
- With verbs that end in a stressed syllable of one vowel and one consonant (not y or w), we double the last consonant and add -ing: begin / beginning **BUT**: play / playing.

Check!

Write the -ing form of these verbs.

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| a | answer / ... <u>answering</u> | e | open / |
| b | get / | f | ride / |
| c | see / | g | run / |
| d | make / | h | stay / |

Focus

1 Complete the sentences with the correct verb in the -ing form.

be get improve learn listen to make watch work out use

-Watching..... films in English is a good way to learn new words.
- Avoid a dictionary all the time.
- the meaning of words from context is a useful skill.
- A lot of learners enjoy songs to improve their vocabulary.
- Have you considered a language learning app on your phone?
- fast at a language is not possible without daily practice.
- afraid of mistakes is bad for fluency.
- Don't forget that a language should be fun.



Practice

2 Circle the best form of the word for each sentence.

- a She passed the English exam because of all her hard *work / working* through the year.
- b He spent five years *studies / studying* Chinese.
- c I spoke Spanish every day during my *visit / visiting* to Madrid.
- d *Work / Working* with people from different countries is really interesting.
- e During the interview, they asked him about his *studies / studying*.
- f *Visit / Visiting* a country is a great way to practise the language.

Get it right!

We can use a gerund to talk about an activity, e.g. *studying, working, visiting*.

Studying at home is difficult because I share a room with my brother.

But there is often a separate noun form that we use in other contexts, e.g. *studies, work, visit*.

She has to combine her **studies** with her football training.

Challenge

3 Rewrite the sentences so that they mean the same thing. Use an *-ing* form in every sentence.

- a It was fun to read that book in French.
..... *Reading that book* in French was fun.
- b It can damage your eyes to look at the sun.
..... sun can damage your eyes.
- c It's not easy to learn three languages at the same time.
..... at the same time is not easy.
- d The best way to learn a language is to practise every day.
..... to learn a language.

4 Write sentences about yourself using an *-ing* form.

- a *Find ing a snake under my bed* is one of my greatest fears.
- bing is one of my ambitions.
- cing is one of my most vivid memories.
- ding was one of my most exciting experiences.
- e I can never forgeting