87 Verb constructions 1

A Verb + *-ing* form

A number of verbs are commonly followed by an *-ing* form.

QUESTIONNAIRE

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
• Do you **enjoy** studying?	Yes, I do.
• Do you **mind** getting up early? [Is it OK for you, or not?]	No, I don't mind at all.
• Do you like or **dislike** having your photograph taken?	I **hate** having my picture taken.
• Do you usually **avoid** speaking to strangers at parties? [try not to do something]	Yes. I prefer to talk to people that I already know.
• Can you **imagine** being without a car? [think of yourself in a situation with no car]	No, I can't. I need my car.
• Have you ever **considered** [thought about] living in another country?	Yes, many times. I'd like to live abroad.
• Would you **recommend** [advise] having a holiday in the capital city of your country? If so, would you **suggest** going at a particular time of the year?	Yes, I would, and I would suggest going in spring or autumn.

Common mistakes

I enjoy going there. (NOT I enjoy ~~to go~~ there.) They suggested leaving early. (NOT They suggested ~~to leave~~ early.) He recommended staying there. (NOT He recommended ~~to stay~~ there.)

B Verb + *to* infinitive

I **hope** to see them next week. [want to see them and believe I will see them]
They **agreed** to help me. [said they will help]
I **intend** to leave next month. [plan]
I **offered** to help them. [said I was happy to help]
I **attempted** to cook the dinner, but it was terrible. [tried]
I **promised** to bring her book back. [said I would definitely bring it back]
The shop assistant was very rude, so I **demanded** to see the manager. [said in a firm way]

C Verb + (object) + preposition + noun/*-ing*

A: Jo has just rung and **asked** me **for** advice about Greece. They're **thinking of**[1] going there.

B: Well, be careful. They went to India last year on your advice and then **blamed**[2] you **for** the terrible holiday they had.

A: That was their fault. They **insisted on**[3] going in the summer when it was far too hot.

[1] thinking about going to Greece (often used in the continuous and followed by a noun/*-ing* form; NOT I'm thinking ~~to go~~ there.)
[2] said you were responsible for something bad, in this case the terrible holiday
[3] said they must go (in the summer)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

87.1 **Choose the correct word(s) to complete the sentences.**

1 I hope *seeing / to see* them.
2 They agreed *helping / to help* me.
3 We enjoy *staying / to stay* by the sea.
4 I suggested *going / to go* on the train.
5 She insisted *in / on* paying for our meal.
6 We must attempt *getting / to get* there on time.
7 Have you considered *working / to work* in a bank?
8 I demanded *speaking / to speak* to the doctor in charge.
9 I asked *him help / him for* help.
10 They blamed me *for / of* it.
11 I don't mind *waiting / to wait* for you.
12 I try to avoid *travelling / to travel* in the rush hour.

87.2 **Complete the sentences with the most suitable verb.**

1 Have you *asked* the waiter for the bill?
2 My sister is ..... of spending the summer in France if she can afford it.
3 I've had a computer for about 20 years; I can't ..... being without one.
4 We always try to ..... driving into town in the rush hour.
5 The accident wasn't my fault but they ..... me for it.
6 We're ..... to see my parents later this week. We had ..... to go last week, but Madison was ill and we couldn't go.
7 I ..... meeting your friends; they were really nice.
8 Have you ever ..... moving out of a town and going to live in the country?
9 I offered to drive, but Mason ..... on taking his car because he said he ..... being a passenger.
10 Ella's parents weren't happy with the school, and they ..... to see the head teacher.

87.3 **When you learn new verbs, you may need to know the constructions that are used with them. A good dictionary will give you this information, usually with examples. Using a good English dictionary, find the constructions that commonly follow these verbs.**

FORMAL
Might I suggest a white wine with your salmon, sir?
[+ (that)]
*I suggest **(that)** we wait a while before we make any firm decisions.*
*Liz suggested **(that)** I try the shop on Mill Road.*
[+ -ing VERB**]**
*I suggested putt**ing** the matter to the committee.*

fancy + ... pretend + ... or .....

decide + ... or ..... accuse + ...

87.4 Over to you

Answer the questions in the questionnaire on the opposite page. If possible, ask someone else the same questions. Then complete the sentences about yourself using the correct construction after each verb.

I like .....
I dislike .....
I don't mind .....
I'm thinking .....
I can't imagine .....
I hope .....
I intend .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS