77 -ing forms

In English, we often add **-ing** to a verb to describe an activity in these situations:
1 As the subject of a sentence: ***Reading** English is easier than **writing**.*
2 After prepositions: *I'm not very good at **spelling**.*
3 After certain verbs: *I love **driving**.*
These words with **-ing** are also called gerunds.

Other common **-ing** forms include:


1

camping[1] spending a holiday in a tent: ***Camping** is great fun when the weather's good.*


2

painting[2] *I used to enjoy **painting** at school.*

sightseeing[3] visiting interesting places as a tourist: *I don't enjoy **sightseeing**.*


3

smoking having a cigarette: ***Smoking** is bad for you.*

understanding knowing about something: ***Understanding** computers is not easy.*

shopping buying things from shops: *I don't mind **shopping**.*

flying travelling in a plane: *I'm frightened of **flying**.*

working the activity of work: ***Working** for a bad boss is terrible.*

teaching working as a teacher: ***Teaching** is a great job, but not very well paid.*

1 What activities are described here?

▶ looking at words and understanding them reading

1 travelling in a plane .....
2 buying things .....
3 spending a holiday in a tent .....
4 writing a word in the correct way .....
5 visiting interesting places as a tourist .....
6 knowing about something .....
7 helping students in a classroom .....
8 controlling a car, bus, etc. .....

2 Do you agree or disagree? If you disagree, say why.

▶ Smoking is bad for you. Agree ▶ Learning English is easy. Disagree. Learning English is really difficult.

1 Swimming is good for you. .....
2 Running is good fun. .....
3 Reading English is easier than speaking. .....
4 English spelling is easy. .....
5 Camping is good fun. .....
6 Teaching is a job I would like. .....
7 Shopping is boring. .....
8 Working is something you must enjoy. .....

3 Make phrases with the *-ing* form of a verb from the first box and a word or phrase from the second box.

write	paint	sleep	run ✓	listen to	play	learn	buy	cook
football	clothes	in a tent	English	languages	meals	music	for miles ✓	pictures

▶ Running for miles

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4 ABOUT YOU **Write sentences that are true for you, using the phrases in Exercise 3. Compare with another student if possible.**

▶ Running for miles is not something I do.

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