

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:



camping¹

spending a holiday in a tent:
Camping is great fun when the weather's good.



painting²

I used to enjoy painting at school.



sightseeing³

visiting interesting places as a tourist:
I don't enjoy sightseeing.

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.

