

# 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:



**camping**<sup>1</sup>

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



**painting**<sup>2</sup>

*I used to enjoy painting at school.*



**sightseeing**<sup>3</sup>

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 .....

.....

.....

.....

## 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.



TEST YOURSELF