› *-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 / ...*answering*.....	**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

a .....*Watching*..... films in English is a good way to learn new words.

b Avoid ..... a dictionary all the time.

c ..... the meaning of words from context is a useful skill.

d A lot of learners enjoy ..... songs to improve their vocabulary.

e Have you considered ..... a language learning app on your phone?

f ..... fast at a language is not possible without daily practice.

g ..... afraid of ..... mistakes is bad for fluency.

h Don't forget that ..... a language should be fun.

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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.

b .....ing ..... is one of my ambitions.

c .....ing ..... is one of my most vivid memories.

d .....ing ..... was one of my most exciting experiences.

e I can never forget .....ing ..... .

LIVEWORKSHEETS