

Verbs after adjectives and prepositions

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a Young children often feel shy to talk to adults.
b Young children often feel shy talking to adults.
- 2 a It is easy to understand why.
b It is easy understanding why.

With *feel* + adjective we use the *-ing* form of the verb:

New students do not always **feel comfortable speaking** English to other people.

After *be* + adjective, *too* + adjective and adjective + *enough*, we use *to* + infinitive:

I was happy to see her when she arrived. (not ~~I was happy seeing her~~)

The lecture was **easy enough to understand**. (not ~~enough easy~~ or ~~easy understanding~~)

After all prepositions (*about, by, from, for, in, of, without, etc.*) we use the *-ing* form of the verb; we cannot use a clause (subject + verb):

They celebrated their anniversary **by organising** a big party.

Thank you **for helping** me so much with my studies.

He opened the door **without thinking** about what would happen next. (not ~~without he thought~~)

☆ Note that *despite, in spite of* and *instead of* are considered to be prepositions:

He did not get the job **despite getting** excellent grades. (not ~~despite he got~~)

She went to the library **instead of going** straight home after school. (not ~~instead of she went~~)

If the following verb is negative, we use *not* + *-ing*: He got a job **despite not getting** good grades.

2 Correct the mistake below.



Alice won the tournament

3 Underline the correct word or phrase in the sentences below.

- 1 It was easy *understanding* / *to understand* why they liked living close to the beach.
- 2 When they finally arrived, the students were too tired *cooking* / *to cook* anything.
- 3 I felt very nervous *presenting* / *to present* my assignment to the class.
- 4 The large tree prevented them from *getting* / *to get* wet in the rain.
- 5 I'm sorry for *causing* / *to cause* you so much trouble.
- 6 The lady in front was wearing a hat that was too big *seeing* / *to see* over.
- 7 They still couldn't afford the hotel in spite of *receiving* / *they received* a 10% discount.
- 8 They decided to rent a flat instead of *staying* / *to stay* in a hotel.