

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

.....

.....

.....

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