

Verb + preposition + -ing
(succeed in -ing / insist on -ing etc.)

A We use some verbs + *preposition* + *object*. For example:

verb + preposition + object

We talked	about	the problem.
I apologised	for	what I said.

If the *object* is another verb, we use **-ing**:

verb + preposition + -ing

We talked	about	going to South America.
You should apologise	for	not telling the truth.

You can use these verbs in the same way:

approve of
decide against
dream of
feel like
insist on
look forward to
succeed in
think of/about

He doesn't approve	of	swearing.
We have decided	against	moving to London.
I wouldn't dream	of	asking them for money.
I don't feel	like	going out tonight.
They insisted	on	paying for the meal.
Are you looking forward	to	going away?
Has Paul succeeded	in	finding a job yet?
I'm thinking	of/about	buying a house.

You can also say 'approve of **somebody** doing something', 'look forward to **somebody** doing something' etc. :

- ☐ I don't approve **of people killing** animals as a sport.
- ☐ We are all looking forward **to Andy coming** home next week.

B Some verbs can have the structure *verb + object + preposition + -ing*.

For example:

verb + object + preposition + -ing

accuse ... of
congratulate ... on
prevent ... from
stop ... from
suspect ... of
thank ... for

He accused	me	of	telling lies.
We congratulated	Lisa	on	winning the first prize.
What prevented	you	from	coming to see us?
The rain didn't stop	us	from	enjoying our holiday.
Nobody suspected	the general	of	being a spy.
I thanked	everyone	for	helping me.

You can say '**stop** somebody **doing**' or '**stop** somebody **from doing**':

- ☐ You can't **stop** me **doing** what I want. or You can't **stop** me **from doing** ...

Note this example with **not -ing**:

- ☐ He accused me of **not telling** the truth.

Some of these verbs are often used in the *passive*. For example:

- ☐ We **were accused of telling** lies. (or ... **accused of lying**.)
- ☐ The general **was suspected of being** a spy.

Note that we say 'apologise **to somebody** for ...':

- ☐ I apologised **to them** for keeping them waiting. (not I apologised them)

62.1 Complete the sentences. Use only one word each time.

- Our neighbours apologised for making so much noise.
- I feel lazy. I don't feel like any work.
- I wanted to go out alone, but Joe insisted on with me.
- I'm fed up with my job. I'm thinking of something else.
- We can't afford a car right now, so we've decided against one.
- It took us a long time, but we finally succeeded in the problem.
- I've always dreamed of a small house by the sea.
- It's great that Amy and Sam are coming to visit us. I'm looking forward to them again.

62.2 Complete the sentences. Use a preposition + one of these verbs (in the correct form):

be **eat** **get** **go out** **invite** **steal**
take off **tell** **try** **use** **walk**

- I don't feel like going out this evening. I'm too tired.
- The police stopped the car because they suspected the driver it.
- Our flight was delayed. Bad weather prevented the plane
- My phone is very old. I'm thinking a new one.
- I didn't want to hear the story but Dan insisted me anyway.
- I'm getting hungry. I'm really looking forward something.
- I think you should apologise to Sarah so rude.
- There's a fence around the lawn to stop people on the grass.
- I'm sorry I can't come to your party, but thank you very much me.
- The man who has been arrested is suspected a false passport.
- I did my best. Nobody can accuse me not

62.3 Complete the sentences on the right.

-  *you*  *kevin* It was nice of you to help me. Thanks very much. Kevin thanked me for helping him.
-  *ann*  *tom* I'll take you to the station. I insist. Tom insisted Ann
-  *you*  *dan* I hear you got married. Congratulations! Dan congratulated me
-  *sue*  *jen* It was nice of you to come to see me. Thank you. Jen thanked
-  *you*  *kate* Sorry I'm late. Kate apologised
-  *you*  *jane* You don't care about other people. Jane accused