

## Preposition (**in/for/about** etc.) + **-ing**

If a preposition (**in/for/about** etc.) is followed by a verb, the verb ends in **-ing**. For example:

	<i>preposition</i>	<i>verb (-ing)</i>	
Are you interested	<b>in</b>	<b>working</b>	for us?
I'm not very good	<b>at</b>	<b>learning</b>	languages.
She must be fed up	<b>with</b>	<b>studying</b>	
What are the advantages	<b>of</b>	<b>having</b>	a car?
This knife is only	<b>for</b>	<b>cutting</b>	bread.
How	<b>about</b>	<b>playing</b>	tennis tomorrow?
I bought a new bicycle	<b>instead of</b>	<b>going</b>	away on holiday.
Carol went to work	<b>in spite of</b>	<b>feeling</b>	ill.

You can also say 'interested in **somebody** (do)ing...', 'fed up with **you** (do)ing...' etc.:

- I'm fed up **with you** telling me what to do.

### B

Note the use of the following prepositions + **-ing**:

**before -ing** and **after -ing**:

- **Before** going out, I phoned Sarah. (*not* 'Before to go out')
- What did you do **after** leaving school?

You can also say 'Before I went out...' and '...after you left school'.

**by -ing** (to say *how* something happens):

- The burglars got into the house **by** breaking a window and climbing in.
- You can improve your English **by** reading more.
- She made herself ill **by** not eating properly.

**without -ing**:

- I ran ten kilometres **without** stopping.
- They climbed through the window **without** anybody seeing them. (*or* ...**without** being seen.)
- She needs to work **without** people disturbing her. (*or* ...**without** being disturbed.)
- It's nice to go on holiday **without** having to worry about money.

### C

**To -ing**

**To** is often part of the *infinitive* (to do / to see etc.):

- We decided **to go** out.
- Would you like **to play** tennis?

But **to** is also a *preposition* (like **in/for/about/from** etc.). For example:

- We drove from London **to** Edinburgh.
- I prefer tea **to** coffee.
- Are you looking forward **to** the weekend?

If a preposition is followed by a verb, the verb ends in **-ing** (**in** doing / **about** going etc. – see Section A). So, when **to** is a preposition and it is followed by a verb, you must say **to -ing**:

- I prefer driving **to travelling** by train. (*not* 'to travel')
- Are you looking forward **to seeing** Ann again? (*not* 'looking forward to see')

For **be/get** used to **-ing**, see Unit 60.

## EXERCISES

**59.1** Complete the sentences so that they mean the same as the sentence(s) in brackets.

- 1 (Why is it useful to have a car?) What are the advantages of having a car?
- 2 (I don't intend to lend you any money.) I have no intention of .....
- 3 (Helen has a good memory for names.) Helen is good at .....
- 4 (Mark won't pass the exam. He has no chance.)  
Mark has no chance of .....
- 5 (Did you get into trouble because you were late?)  
Did you get into trouble for .....
- 6 (We didn't eat at home. We went to a restaurant instead.)  
Instead of .....
- 7 (Tom thinks that working is better than doing nothing.)  
Tom prefers working to .....
- 8 (They got married. They didn't tell any of their friends.)  
They got married without .....
- 9 (Our team played well but we lost the game.)  
Our team lost the game in spite of .....

**59.2** Complete the sentences using **by -ing**. Use one of the following (with the verb in the correct form): **borrow too much money**      ~~break a window~~      drive too fast  
**put some posters up on the walls**      stand on a chair      turn a key

- 1 The burglars got into the house by breaking a window.
- 2 I was able to reach the top shelf .....
- 3 You start the engine of a car .....
- 4 Kevin got himself into financial difficulty .....
- 5 You can put people's lives in danger .....
- 6 We made the room look nicer .....

**59.3** Complete the sentences with a suitable word. Use only one word each time.

- 1 I ran ten kilometres without stopping.
- 2 He left the hotel without ..... his bill.
- 3 It's a nice morning. How about ..... for a walk?
- 4 I was surprised that she left without ..... goodbye to anyone.
- 5 Before ..... to bed, I like to have a hot drink.
- 6 We were able to translate the letter into English without ..... a dictionary.
- 7 It was a very long journey. I was very tired after ..... on a train for 36 hours.
- 8 I was annoyed because the decision was made without anybody ..... me.
- 9 After ..... the same job for ten years, I felt I needed a change.

**59.4** For each situation write a sentence with **I'm (not) looking forward to**.

- 1 You are going on holiday next week. How do you feel about this?  
I'm looking forward to going on holiday.
- 2 Diane is a good friend of yours and she is coming to visit you soon. So you will see her again soon. How do you feel about this? I'm .....
- 3 You are going to the dentist tomorrow. You don't like visits to the dentist. How do you feel about this? I'm not .....
- 4 Carol is a student at school. She hates it but she is leaving school next summer. How does she feel about this? .....
- 5 You've arranged to play tennis tomorrow. You like tennis. How do you feel about this?  
.....