

Verb + -ing (enjoy doing / stop doing, etc.)

A. Look at these examples

- I **enjoy** reading (~~not I enjoy to read~~)
- Would you **mind** closing the door? (~~not mind to close~~)
- Peter **suggested** going to the cinema. (~~not suggested to go~~)

After **enjoy**, **mind** and **suggest** we use **-ing** (~~not to ...~~) Some more verbs that are followed by **-ing**:

stop	postpone	admit	avoid	imagine
finish	consider	deny	risk	fancy

- Suddenly everybody **stopped** talking. There was silence.
- I will do the washing-up when I have **finished** cleaning the flat.
- He tried to **avoid** answering my question.
- I don't **fancy** going out this evening. (= I am not enthusiastic about it.)
- Have you ever **considered** going to live in another country?
- When I am on holiday I **enjoy not having** to get up early. (negative form is not **-ing**)

B. We also use -ing after:

give up (= stop)
go on / carry on (=continue)

put off (=postpone)
keep or keep on (=do something continuously or repeatedly)

- I have **given up** reading newspapers. I think it's a waste of time.
- Mary doesn't want to retire. She wants to **go on** working (or **carry on** working).
- You **keep** interrupting when I am talking! or You **keep on** interrupting ...

C. With some verbs you can use the structure verb + somebody + -ing:

- I cannot **imagine John** riding a bicycle.
- You can't **stop me** doing what I want.
- 'Sorry to keep you waiting so long.' 'That's all right.'

Note the passive form:

- I **don't mind** being kept waiting. (= I don't mind **people** keeping me waiting.)

D. When you are talking about finished actions you can say **having done** / **stolen/said** etc.

- They admitted **having stolen** the money.

But it is not necessary to use having (done) : you can also say:

- They admitted **stealing** the money.
- I now regret **saying** (or **having said**) what I said.

E. After some of the verbs on this page (especially **admit/deny/suggest**) you can also use that...

- They **denied that** they had stolen the money (or They **denied** stealing ...)
- Sam **suggested that** we went to the cinema. (or Sam **suggested** going ...)