

-INGLISH 101

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The type of verbs which Milsark shows to be unreceptive to *-ing* affixation arguably have an already standardized adjectival affix of a different origin. Verbs which have an adjectival counterpart must belong to one of two different groups with different looks or possible adjectival endings. If we look at examples (6) and (7) (Milsark 1988: 616)

- 6 a. a very interesting person
 b. Mary seems interesting.
 c. an astonishing event
 d. It seemed astonishing at the time.
- 7 a. *a very talking person
 b. *Mary seems talking.
 c. *a forgetting person
 d. *John seemed forgetting.

We can replace the *-ing* forms of the verb-derived adjectives with other forms. For example, *talking* in (7a) and (7b) can be replaced with *talkative*, and *forgetting* in (7c) and (7d) with *forgettable* or *forgetful*. In (6) *interesting* and *astonishing*, the only other adjectival forms of these verb-derived adjectives are the *-ed* affixed forms such as *interested* or *astonished* (or *-en* in irregular verbs such as *forgot* - *forgotten*.)

Some adjectives have an acceptable *-ed* form even in the absence of an *-ing* form. The verbal qualities still present in this class of adjectives can be seen across the spectrum of possible entries in the adjective category via the affixed morphology.

*a hating person
a hateful person
a (much) hated person

*a liking person
a likable person
a (well) liked person

-ing adjectives however are limited to the two forms already mentioned (*-ing*, *-ed*). There are no other adjectival affixes in current acceptable use for these words (*interest*, *astonish*).

REFERENCE

Milsark, G. 1988. Singl-ing. *Linguistic Inquiry* 19: 611-634.