

Verb + preposition + **-ing** (succeed in -ing /
accuse somebody of -ing etc.)

A

Many verbs have the structure *verb + preposition (in/for/about etc.) + object*.
For example:

<i>verb +</i>	<i>preposition</i>	<i>+ object</i>
We talked	about	the problem.
You must apologise	for	what you said.

If the *object* is another verb, it ends in **-ing**:

<i>verb +</i>	<i>preposition</i>	<i>+ object</i>
We talked	about	going to South America.
You must apologise	for	not telling the truth.

Some more verbs with this structure:

approve (of)	He doesn't approve	of	swearing .
decide (against)	We have decided	against	moving to London.
dream (of)	I wouldn't dream	of	asking them for money.
feel (like)	Do you feel	like	going out tonight?
insist (on)	They insisted	on	paying for the meal.
look forward (to)	I'm looking forward	to	meeting her.
succeed (in)	Have you succeeded	in	finding a job yet?
think (of/about)	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 for fun.
- ☐ We are all looking forward **to Andy coming** home.

B

The following verbs can have the structure *verb + object + preposition + -ing*:

	<i>verb +</i>	<i>+ object</i>	<i>preposition</i>	<i>+ -ing (object)</i>
accuse (of)	They accused	us	of	telling lies.
congratulate (on)	We all congratulated	Lisa	on	winning the first prize.
excuse (for)	Excuse	me	for	phoning you so late.
prevent (from)	What prevented	you	from	coming to see us?
stop (from)	The rain didn't stop	us	from	enjoying our holiday.
suspect (of)	Nobody suspected	the general	of	being a spy.
thank (for)	I forgot to thank	them	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** what I want.

The following examples are with **not -ing**:

- ☐ They accused us of **not telling** the truth.
- ☐ Excuse me for **not replying** to your email until now.

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

- ☐ We **were accused of telling** lies.
- ☐ 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)