

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)
- ☐ Chris **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'll do the shopping when I've **finished cleaning** the flat.
- ☐ He tried to **avoid answering** my question.
- ☐ I don't **fancy going** out this evening. (= I'm not enthusiastic about it)
- ☐ Have you ever **considered going** to live in another country?
- ☐ They said they were innocent. They **denied doing** anything wrong.

The negative form is **not -ing**:

- ☐ When I'm on holiday, I enjoy **not having** to get up early.



B

We also use **-ing** after:

give up (= stop)
put off (= postpone)
go on or carry on (= continue)
keep or keep on (= do something continuously or repeatedly)

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

C

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

- ☐ I can't **imagine George riding** a motorbike.
- ☐ You can't **stop me doing** what I want.
- ☐ Did you really say that? I don't **remember you saying** that.
- ☐ 'Sorry to **keep you waiting** so long.' 'That's all right.'

Note the passive form (**being done/seen/kept** etc.):

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

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** ...)
- ☐ Chris **suggested that** we went to the cinema. (*or* Sam **suggested going** ...)