

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

A

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

Are you interested	<i>preposition</i> in	<i>verb (-ing)</i> working	for us?
I'm not good	at	learning	languages.
Sue must be fed up	with	studying.	
What are the advantages	of	having	a car?
Thanks very much	for	inviting	me to your party.
How	about	meeting	for lunch tomorrow?
Why don't you go out	instead of	sitting	at home all the time?
Amy went to work	in spite of	feeling	ill.

You can also say 'instead of **somebody** doing something', 'fed up with **people** doing something' etc. :

- ☐ I'm fed up with **people** 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 finishing** school?

You can also say '**Before I went** out ...' and '**... after you finished** 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.
☐ Many accidents are caused **by** people **driving** too fast.

without -ing:

- ☐ We ran ten kilometres **without stopping**.
☐ It was a stupid thing to say. I said it **without thinking**.
☐ She needs to work **without** people **disturbing** her. (*or ... without being* disturbed.)
☐ I have enough problems of my own **without having** to worry about yours.

C

To -ing (look forward **to doing** something etc.)

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

- ☐ We decided **to travel** by train.
☐ Would you like **to meet** for lunch tomorrow?

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

- ☐ We went from Paris **to Geneva**.
☐ 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**:

- ☐ I'm fed up **with travelling** by train.
☐ How **about going** away this weekend?

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 going** on holiday? (*not* looking forward to go)