

Gerund after prepositions and certain phrases

- When a verb is placed immediately after a preposition the –ing form must be used. The infinitive is impossible in these cases.

You should check the oil *before starting* the car.

You can't make an omelette *without breaking* eggs.

We got the job finished *by working* sixteen hours a day.

Instead of doing the shopping, Julian went to his friend's place.

- A number of phrases and phrasal verbs also take the –ing form. The most common of these are:

it's no use	It's no use worrying about it.
it's no good	It's no good asking her. She doesn't know.
it's (not) worth	It's not worth seeing that film.
can't help	I couldn't help laughing.
to look forward to	I'm looking forward to seeing him.
can't stand	Lily can't stand working in an office.
to be afraid of	He was afraid of looking silly.
to be busy	Rachel is busy studying for her exams.
to be capable of	The company isn't capable of handling an order that large.
to be charged with	They were charged with driving to the public danger.
to be far from	Computers, far from destroying jobs, can create employment.
to be fed up with	She must be fed up with studying.
to be fond of	He is very fond of skiing.
to be good / bad at	I'm not very good at learning languages.
to be keen on	He is very keen on playing tennis.
to be interested in	I'm interested in collecting stamps.
to be responsible for	Was President Bush responsible for starting the War with Iraq?
to be tired/sick of	I'm tired of watching television, let's go for a walk.
to be tired from	I'm tired from playing football all afternoon.
to be / get used to	I'm not used to driving on the left.
to accuse of	They were accused of breaking into a shop.
to apologize for	They apologized for being late.
to believe in	They believe in letting children make their own mistakes.
to carry on	We all carried on singing as if nothing odd was happening.
to complain about	She complains about bullying.
to concentrate on	Do you concentrate on reading or writing?
to congratulate sb. on	I wanted to congratulate you on making such a good speech.
to cope with	He is not sure how to cope with getting older.
to decide against	They decided against stealing the car.
to depend on	Success may depend on becoming more patient.
to dream of / about	I often dream of winning a lot of money.
to feel like	He didn't feel like going to work.
to give up	I gave up smoking when I got pregnant.
to insist on	I insist on you seeing a doctor.
to go / keep on	I've told him to stop but he keeps on doing it.
to keep from	He was the only person who kept us from running amok.
to object to	I object to being spoken to like that.
to refrain from	Would you kindly refrain from smoking, please?
to prevent sb from	Henry has a back injury that may prevent him from playing in this game.
to put off	We'll have to put off going on holiday until you're better.
to succeed in	How then can I succeed in learning chemistry?
to specialize in	The firm specialized in designing websites.
to stop sb. from	I stopped Andrew from smoking.
to take to	Dee's taken to getting up at 6 and going jogging.
to talk about / of	They often talk about travelling to New Zealand.
to thank for	I must write and thank him for sending the money.
to think of / about	He is thinking of emigrating.
to warn sb. against	We warned them against using this computer.
to worry about	The patient worries about doing the check-up.