

How to use ing verbs ?

In this lesson about the -ing form in English we will see its formation and use (ex: playing, living, washing...)

What is the purpose of -ing in English?

The English -ing is used for the English gerund and for the present participle. That's why the gerund and the present participle are called "-ing form". However, there are differences between the two. -Ing is mainly used to talk about activities.

1. Used as the subject of a sentence:

- **Flying** makes me nervous.
- **Eating** fast food is bad for your health.

2. Used as a complement:

- He likes **playing** soccer.
- I love **watching** anime.
- I enjoy **reading** books.

3. Used as an adjective:

- it's disgusting
- this TV program is interesting
- it's discouraging
- she is boring
- my job is tiring
- running water

4. Used as a name:

- a wedding
- a painting

5. For activities:

- swimming
- surfing
- fishing
- skate-boarding
- traveling
- reading

6. We can use it with **while** or **by** :

- I listened music **while** going to the supermarket
- He reads a book **while** watching TV
- You should find it **by** using internet

7. Used after a preposition:

- I'm interested in **teaching** french to foreigners.
- He's good at **playing** video games.

8. With the progressive form of a verb :

- present progressif => I am watching TV
- present perfect progressive => I have been watching TV
- past progressive => I was watching TV
- past perfect progressive => I had been watching TV
- futur progressive => I will be watching TV
- futur perfect progressive => I will have been watching TV

9. After some phrasal verbs:

- I look forward to **hearing** from you soon. (at the end of a letter)
- He wants to give up **smoking**.

10. In compound names:

- bird-watching
- a swimming pool
- a developing country
- shaving cream
- good looking
- a washing machine
- a driving lesson
- a frying pan
- a sleeping bag

11. After some expressions :

can't stand, can't help, don't mind, it's no use/good, be + worth:

- He couldn't help falling in love with her.
- I can't stand being late for the movie.
- I don't mind waiting for her.
- It's no use/good lying to her.
- It might be worth visiting the park at night.

or expressions that end with a preposition:

- There's no point in driving to the party, the road is jammed.
- In spite of missing the plane, she arrived on time.
- what about having dinner now ?

12. After No... to express the prohibition:

You may have already seen those signs:

- No smoking
- No parking
- No skateboarding
- No littering

How the verb & ing is formed in English

The -ing can be added to the verbal base:

- be => being
- do => doing

- want => wanting
- ski => skiing
- call => calling
- read => reading
- say => saying

Verbs that end in a silent -e- lose it if you add a -ing:

- love => loving
- come => coming
- make => making
- dance => dancing
- dive => diving
- have => having
- move => moving

If the verb ends in -ie, it must be replaced by -ying:

- die => dying
- tie => tying
- lie => lying

If the verb ends in consonant - vowel - consonant, and is fully accented or at the end, the end consonant must be doubled and -ing added:

- begin => beginning
- stop => stopping
- sit => sitting
- get => getting
- plan => planning
- run => running

If the accent is not on the end, simply add -ing:

- happen => happening
- listen => listening
- open => opening
- visit => visiting

If the verb ends in w, x or -y, we simply add -ing:

- play => playing
- snow => snowing
- fix => fixing
- spy => spying
- spray => spraying

Beware of verbs ending in -c (there are not many of them):

- panic => panicking
- mimic => mimicking