

UNIT 53 Verb + -ing

a)

stop	enjoy	fancy	admit	consider	miss
finish	mind	imagine	deny	involve	postpone
delay	suggest	regret	avoid	practise	risk

If these verbs are followed by another verb, the structure is usually *verb + -ing*:

- Stop talking!
- I'll do the shopping when I've finished cleaning the flat.
- I don't fancy going out this evening.
- Have you ever considered going to live in another country?
- I can't imagine George riding a motor-bike.
- When I'm on holiday, I enjoy not having to get up early.

The following expressions also take *-ing*:

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

- Are you going to give up smoking?
- She kept (on) interrupting me while I was speaking.

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

- I don't mind being told what to do.

You cannot normally use the *infinitive* (*to do / to dance* etc.) after these verbs and expressions:

- I enjoy dancing. (*not 'to dance'*)
- Would you mind closing the door? (*not 'to close'*)
- Tom suggested going to the cinema. (*not 'to go'*)

b) When you are talking about finished actions, you can also say *having done / having stolen* etc. But it is not necessary to use this form. You can also use the simple *-ing* form for finished actions:

- He admitted stealing (*or having stolen*) the money.
- They now regret getting (*or having got*) married.

c) With some of the verbs in this unit (especially *admit, deny, regret* and *suggest*) you can also use a *that ...* structure:

- He denied that he had stolen the money. (*or denied stealing*)
- Tom suggested that we went to the cinema. (*or suggested going*)

For *suggest* see also Unit 35c.

For verbs + *-ing* see also Units 56 and 57.

UNIT 53 Exercises

53.1 In this exercise you have to complete the sentences with these verbs:

try	steal	meet	look	write	make	be knocked
wash	play	eat	splash	go	drive	take

Example: Do you fancy playing tennis this afternoon?

- 1 Could you please stop so much noise?
- 2 I don't enjoy letters.
- 3 Does your job involve a lot of people?
- 4 I considered the job but in the end I decided against it.
- 5 If you use the shower, try and avoid water on the floor.
- 6 Jack gave up to find a job in Britain and decided to emigrate.
- 7 Have you finished your hair yet?
- 8 The phone rang while Ann was having her dinner. She didn't answer it; she just carried on
- 9 He admitted the car but denied it dangerously.
- 10 Why do you keep on at me like that?
- 11 They had to postpone away because their son was ill.
- 12 If you walk into the road without looking, you risk down by a car.

53.2 This time you have to read a sentence and write a second sentence with the same meaning. Begin your sentence in the way shown.

Examples: Do you have to travel in your job? Does your job involve travelling ?
 He is now sorry that he didn't study harder when he was at college.
 He now regrets not studying harder when he was at college.

- 1 I don't want to go out this evening. I don't fancy
- 2 Are you sorry you didn't take the job? Do you regret
- 3 Why don't you go away tomorrow instead of today?
 Why don't you put off until
- 4 It's not a good idea to travel during the rush-hour.
 It's better to avoid
- 5 Could you turn the radio down, please?
 Would you mind
- 6 The driver of the car said it was true that he didn't have a licence.
 The driver of the car admitted
- 7 Tom said 'Let's have fish for dinner'.
 Tom suggested

53.3 Now make your own sentences. Complete each sentence using -ing.

Example: I really enjoy going for long walks in the country.

- 1 At weekends I enjoy
- 2 This evening I fancy
- 3 I often regret
- 4 Learning English involves
- 5 I think people should stop