

# UNIT 59 Preposition + -ing

- a) If a verb comes after a preposition (*in/at/with/about* etc.), the verb ends in **-ing**. Study these examples:

Are you interested	<b>in</b>	<b>working</b>	for us?
I'm not very good	<b>at</b>	<b>learning</b>	languages.
I'm fed up	<b>with</b>	<b>studying.</b>	
The children are excited	<b>about</b>	<b>going</b>	on holiday.
What are the advantages	<b>of</b>	<b>having</b>	a car?
This knife is only	<b>for</b>	<b>cutting</b>	bread.
John went to work	<b>in spite of</b>	<b>feeling</b>	ill. (See Unit 109.)
I bought a new bicycle	<b>instead of</b>	<b>going</b>	away on holiday.

- b) You can use **-ing** with **before** and **after**:
- **Before** going out I phoned Ann.  
You can also say: '**Before** I went out I ...'
  - What did you do **after** leaving school?  
You can also say: '... **after** you left school?'
- c) You can use **by -ing** to say *how* something happened:
- They got into the house **by breaking** a kitchen window and climbing in.
  - You can improve your English **by doing** a lot of reading.
- d) You can use **-ing** after **without**:
- Tom left **without finishing** his dinner.
  - She ran five miles **without stopping**.
  - He climbed through the window **without** anybody seeing him.  
(or '... **without being** seen.')
  - She needs to work **without** people disturbing her. (or '... **without being** disturbed.')
  - It's nice to go on holiday **without having** to worry about money.
- e) **To** is often a part of the *infinitive*. For example:
- They decided **to go** out.
  - I want **to play** tennis.
- But **to** is also a *preposition*. For example:
- Tom went **to** London.
  - He gave the book **to** Ann.
  - I prefer cities **to** the countryside.
  - I'm looking forward **to** the week-end.
- If a preposition is followed by a verb, the verb ends in **-ing** (see section a). So, if **to** is a preposition and it is followed by a verb, you must say **to -ing**. For example:
- I prefer cycling **to driving** (*not* 'to drive')
  - I'm looking forward **to seeing** Ann again. (*not* 'to see')

For **be/get** used to **-ing** see Unit 62.

# UNIT 59 Exercises

**59.1** In this exercise you have to read a sentence and then write a second sentence with the same meaning. Each time begin in the way shown.

Example: I phoned Ann and then I went out. After phoning Ann I went out.

- 1 Tom went to bed but first he had a hot drink.  
Before .....
- 2 The plane took off and soon afterwards it crashed.  
Soon after .....
- 3 We didn't eat at home. We went to a restaurant instead.  
Instead of .....
- 4 You put people's lives in danger if you drive dangerously.  
You put people's lives in danger by .....
- 5 He hurt his leg but he managed to win the race.  
In spite of .....
- 6 Bill is a very good cook. Bill is very good at .....
- 7 I don't intend to lend her any money. I have no intention of .....
- 8 George took more exercise and so lost weight.  
By .....
- 9 He was angry with me because I was late. He was angry with me for .....
- 10 Tom thinks that doing nothing is better than working.  
Tom prefers doing nothing to .....

**59.2** Now read each situation and then write a sentence with **without -ing**.

Examples: She ran five miles. She didn't stop. She ran five miles without stopping.  
He left the room. Nobody saw him. He left the room without anyone seeing him.

- 1 He translated the article. He didn't use a dictionary.  
He translated the article without .....
- 2 Look right and left before you cross the road.  
Don't cross .....
- 3 She got married. Nobody knew about it.  
She .....

**59.3** This time read each situation and write a sentence with **look forward to**.

Examples: You are going on holiday next week. How do you feel about this?

I'm looking forward to going on holiday.

Sue is doing an examination next week. She's not very happy about it. How does she feel about it? She is not looking forward to doing the examination.

- 1 A good friend is coming to visit you soon, so you will see him/her again. How do you feel about this? I'm .....
- 2 You are going to the dentist. You don't like visits to the dentist. How do you feel about it?  
.....
- 3 Carol is a schoolgirl. She hates school but she is leaving school next summer.  
How does she feel about this? She .....