

UNIT 60 Verb + preposition + -ing

a) Many verbs have the structure *verb (V) + preposition (P) + object*. For example, **talk about**:

– We talked **about the problem**. (the **problem** is the *object*)

If the object is another verb, it ends in **-ing**:

– We talked about **going to America**. (V + P + **-ing**)

Here are some more verbs which have the structure V + P + **-ing**:

succeed in	Has Tom succeeded	in	finding a job yet?
feel like*	I don't feel	like	going out tonight.
think about/of	Are you thinking	of/about	buying a house?
dream of	I've always dreamed	of	being rich.
approve/disapprove of	She doesn't approve	of	gambling.
look forward to	I'm looking forward	to	meeting her.
insist on	He insisted	on	buying me a drink.
decide against	We decided	against	moving to London.
apologise for	He apologised	for	keeping me waiting.

* I feel like **doing** = I'd like to do, I'm in the mood to do.

We say 'apologise to someone for something':

– He apologised **to me** for keeping me waiting. (*not* 'he apologised me')

With some of these verbs you can also use the structure *verb + preposition + someone + -ing*. For example:

– We are all looking forward to **Peter coming** home.

– She doesn't approve of **her son staying** out late at night.

– They insisted on **me (or my) staying** with them. (See also Unit 35c.)

b) These verbs have the structure *verb + object + preposition + -ing*:

accuse	They accused	me	of	telling lies.
suspect	Did they suspect	the man	of	being a spy?
congratulate	I congratulated	Ann	on	passing the exam.
prevent	What prevented	him	from	coming to the wedding?
stop	We stopped	everyone	from*	leaving the building.
thank	I thanked	her	for	being so helpful.
forgive	Please forgive	me	for	not writing to you.
warn	They warned	us	against	buying the car.

* After **stop** you can leave out **from**. So you can say:

– We stopped everyone **leaving (or from leaving)** the building.

Some of these verbs are often used in the passive:

– I **was accused of** telling lies.

– **Was the man suspected of** being a spy?

– We **were warned against** buying it.

UNIT 60 Exercises

60.1 In this exercise you have to write the correct preposition and to put the verb into the correct form. Use the verb in brackets at the end of each sentence.

Example: Jack insisted on going out by himself. (go)

- 1 After a long time we eventually succeeded a flat. (find)
- 2 I've been thinking for a new job. (look)
- 3 His parents didn't approve him out so late. (stay)
- 4 I wonder what prevented him to the party. (come)
- 5 I'm getting hungry. I'm looking forward dinner. (have)
- 6 I don't feel today. (study)
- 7 Forgive me you but I must ask you a question. (interrupt)
- 8 The arrested man was suspected into a house. (break)
- 9 Have you ever thought married? (get)
- 10 I've always dreamed on a small island in the Pacific. (live)
- 11 The cold water didn't stop her a swim. (have)
- 12 Have you ever been accused a crime? (commit)
- 13 She apologised so rude to me. (be)
- 14 We have decided a new car. (buy)

60.2 Now you have to change direct speech into reported speech. Begin each of your sentences in the way shown.

Example: 'It was nice of you to help me. Thanks very much.' (George said to you)

George thanked me for helping him

- 1 'I'll drive you to the station. I insist.' (Tom said to Ann)
Tom insisted
- 2 'I hear you passed your examinations. Congratulations!' (Jim said to you)
Jim congratulated
- 3 'It was nice of you to visit me. Thank you.' (Mrs Dent said to Sue)
Mrs Dent thanked
- 4 'Don't stay at the hotel near the airport.' (I said to Jack)
I warned
- 5 'I'm sorry I didn't phone you earlier.' (Margaret said to you)
Margaret apologised not
- 6 'You didn't pay attention to what I said.' (The teacher said to the boy)
The teacher accused

60.3 Now you can write some sentences about yourself. Use -ing.

Example: Today I don't feel like going out

- 1 This evening I feel like
- 2 I'm looking forward to
- 3 I'm thinking of
- 4 I would never dream of