

Infinitive - Too/Enough - The "-ing form"

The "-ing form"



Mr Scott likes painting.
Painting is his favourite hobby.

The "-ing form" is the verb form with the -ing suffix.

e.g. Sam likes **fishing**.

We use the "-ing form":

- ◆ as a noun. e.g. **Walking** is a good form of exercise.
- ◆ usually after the verbs **like, love, dislike, hate, enjoy, prefer**.
e.g. Helen **likes watching** old films on TV.
- ◆ after the verbs **start, begin, stop, finish**.
e.g. He **started writing** his composition an hour ago.
- ◆ after prepositions.
e.g. I'm tired **of going** to work by bus every morning.
- ◆ after the verb **go** when we talk about activities.
e.g. We usually **go skiing** at the weekends.
- ◆ after the expressions **be busy, it's no use, it's no good, it's (not) worth, what's the use of ...?, there's no point in**.
e.g. Father is **busy repairing** the car.
- ◆ after verbs such as **avoid, admit, confess, deny, look forward to, mind, regret, risk, spend, suggest, etc.**
e.g. Tony **avoided answering** my question.

NOTE:

- 1 We can use the -ing form or the to - infinitive after the verbs **start, begin, continue, like, love, prefer** and **hate**. e.g. He **started writing/to write** his speech last night.
- 2 We use the to - infinitive and not the -ing form after the expressions **would love/would like/would prefer**. e.g. I **would love to have** my own house one day. (NOT: ~~I would love having my own house one day.~~)
- 3 We can use the bare infinitive or the -ing form after the verbs **see, hear, feel** and **watch**. Note the difference in meaning, however.
 - a) I **saw** Peter **cross** the street. (I saw the whole action – by the time I left, Peter was on the other side of the street.)
 - b) I **saw** Peter **crossing** the street. (I only saw part of the action – I don't know if Peter got to the other side of the street by the time I left.)

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Match column A with column B to make correct sentences.

A	B
1 Writing letters to friends	a is very tiring.
2 The baby started	b is bad for your teeth.
3 Running long distances	c crying when I left the room.
4 Speaking foreign languages	d skiing last winter.
5 They went	e is one of my hobbies.
6 Eating lots of sugar	f washing the dishes.
7 Tom doesn't like	g is useful for everyone.

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Put the verbs in brackets into the correct infinitive form or the -ing form.

- 1 I would like ...**to go**... (go) out tonight.
- 2 He hates (play) cards.
- 3 She is too excited (sleep).
- 4 You must (get up) early in the morning.
- 5 I regret (spend) so much money last weekend.
- 6 They go (run) every Tuesday evening.
- 7 I saw Helen (wash) the dishes. It took her only ten minutes.
- 8 I started (learn) French two years ago.
- 9 He was very pleased (see) her again.
- 10 The dentist advised him (stop) eating sweets.