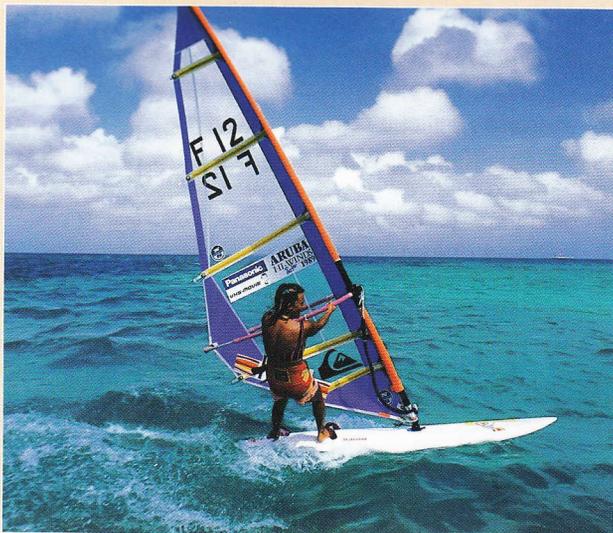


The -ing form



Windsurfing is a popular summer sport. A lot of young people **spend** hours **windsurfing**.

The -ing form is used:

- ◆ as a noun. e.g. **Swimming** keeps you fit.
- ◆ after prepositions. e.g. He left **without saying** goodbye.
- ◆ after **love, like, enjoy, dislike, hate** and **prefer** to express general preference. e.g. She **likes going** for long walks.
- ◆ after certain verbs (**consider, avoid, deny, look forward to, confess to, fancy, involve, mention, risk, spend, mind, regret, admit, suggest, imagine, etc.**). e.g. Jessica **spent all day shopping**.
- ◆ after **go** for activities. e.g. They often **go climbing** at the weekends.
- ◆ after: **it's no use, it's (not) worth, it's no good, be busy, what's the use of ...?, there's no point in, can't help, can't stand, be/get used to, have difficulty (in)**. e.g. **It's no use waiting** for the bus. It won't come.

- ◆ after the verbs **see, hear, feel, watch, listen to** and **notice** to describe an incomplete action, that is to say that somebody saw, heard, etc. only a part of the action.

e.g. I **heard** Jack talking on the phone.

(= I heard Jack while he was talking on the phone. I heard part of the action in progress.

I didn't listen to the whole conversation.)

- But:** **see, hear, feel, watch, listen to, notice + bare infinitive** describe a complete action, something that somebody saw, heard, etc. from beginning to end.

e.g. I **heard** Jack **talk** on the phone. (= I heard the whole conversation from beginning to end.)

Verbs taking the to -infinitive or the -ing form without a change in meaning

- ◆ **begin, start, continue**
We never have two -ing forms together.
e.g. They started **talking/to talk**.
But: It's **beginning to get** dark.
(NOT: ~~It's beginning getting~~ dark.)
- ◆ **advise, allow, permit, recommend, encourage**
take the to-infinitive when they are followed by an object or when they are in the passive form. They take the -ing form when they are not followed by an object.
e.g. They **don't allow us to park** here. (object)
We **aren't allowed to park** here. (passive)
They **don't allow parking** here. (no object)
- ◆ **need/require/want + -ing form**
This construction often shows that it is necessary to repair or improve something. 'Need' can also be followed by a passive infinitive.
e.g. The flat **needs decorating**.
The flat **needs to be decorated**.

11

In pairs, ask and answer questions using the prompts below, as in the example.

SA: *Why does Sarah giggle so much?*

SB: *Well, she doesn't enjoy giggling, she just can't help doing it.*

- 1 Sarah / giggle so much?
- 2 you / always chew your pen?
- 3 he / blush all the time?
- 4 she / bite her nails?
- 5 you / shout at the children?