

A like / love / hate

When you talk about repeated actions, you can use **-ing** or **to ...** after these verbs.

So you can say:

- Do you **like getting** up early? *or* Do you **like to get** up early?
- Stephanie **hates flying**. *or* Stephanie **hates to fly**.
- I **love meeting** people. *or* I **love to meet** people.
- I don't **like being** kept waiting. *or* ... **like to be** kept waiting.
- I don't **like** friends **calling** me at work. *or* ... friends **to call** me at work.

but

(1) We use **-ing** (*not to ...*) when we talk about a situation that already exists (or existed).

For example:

- Paul lives in Berlin now. He **likes living** there.
(he lives there now and he likes it)
- Do you **like being** a student? (you are a student – do you like it?)
- The office I worked in was horrible. I **hated working** there. (I worked there and I hated it)

(2) There is sometimes a difference between **I like to do** and **I like doing**:

I like doing something = I do it and I enjoy it:

- I **like cleaning** the kitchen. (= I enjoy it.)

I like to do something = I choose to do it (but maybe I don't enjoy it):

- It's not my favourite job, but I **like to clean** the kitchen as often as possible.

Note that we use **-ing** (*not to ...*) with **enjoy** and **mind**:

- I **enjoy cleaning** the kitchen. (*not* I enjoy to clean)
- I **don't mind cleaning** the kitchen. (*not* I don't mind to clean)

B would like / would love / would hate / would prefer

Would like / would love etc. are usually followed by **to ...**:

- I'd **like** (= I **would like**) to go away for a few days.
- What **would** you **like to do** this evening?
- I **wouldn't like to go** on holiday alone.
- I'd **love to meet** your family.
- Would** you **prefer to eat** now or later?

Compare **I like** and **I would like** (I'd like):

- I **like playing** tennis. / I **like to play** tennis. (= I like it in general)
- I'd **like to play** tennis today. (= I want to play today)

Would mind is followed by **-ing**:

- Would** you **mind closing** the door, please? (*not* mind to close)

C I would like to have (done something)

I would like **to have done** something = I regret now that I didn't or couldn't do it:

- It's a shame we didn't see Anna. I **would like to have seen** her again.
- We'd **like to have gone** away, but we were too busy at home.

We use the same structure after **would love / would hate / would prefer**:

- Poor David! I **would hate to have been** in his position.
- I'd **love to have gone** to the party, but it was impossible.

Exercises

58.1 Write sentences about yourself. Do you like these activities? Choose from these verbs:

like / don't like love hate enjoy don't mind

- 1 (flying) *I don't like flying.* or *I don't like to fly.*
- 2 (playing cards)
- 3 (being alone)
- 4 (going to museums)
- 5 (cooking)
- 6 (getting up early)

58.2 Make sentences using **-ing** or **to ...** . Sometimes either form is possible.

- 1 Paul lives in Berlin now. It's nice. He likes it.
(He / like / live / there) *He likes living there.*
- 2 Jane is a biology teacher. She likes her job
(She / like / teach / biology) She
- 3 Joe always has his camera with him and takes a lot of pictures.
(He / like / take / pictures)
- 4 I used to work in a supermarket. I didn't like it much.
(I / not / like / work / there)
- 5 Rachel is studying medicine. She likes it.
(She / like / study / medicine)
- 6 Dan is famous, but he doesn't like it.
(He / not / like / be / famous)
- 7 Jennifer is a very careful person. She doesn't take many risks.
(She / not / like / take / risks)
- 8 I don't like surprises.
(I / like / know / things / in advance)

58.3 Complete the sentences with a verb in the correct form, **-ing** or **to ...** . In two sentences either form is possible.

- 1 It's fun to go to new places – I enjoy *travelling*
- 2 'Would you like down?' 'No, thanks. I'll stand.'
- 3 The music is very loud. Would you mind it down?
- 4 How do you relax? What do you like in your spare time?
- 5 When I have to take a train, I'm always worried that I'll miss it. So I like to the station in plenty of time.
- 6 I enjoy busy. I don't like it when there's nothing to do.
- 7 I would love to your wedding, but I'm afraid I'll be away.
- 8 I don't like in this part of town. I want to move somewhere else.
- 9 Do you have a minute? I'd like to you about something.
- 10 If there's bad news and good news, I like the bad news first.
- 11 Shall we leave now, or would you prefer a little?
- 12 Steve wants to win every time. He hates

58.4 Write sentences using **would ... to have (done)**. Use the verbs in brackets.

- 1 It's a shame I couldn't go to the party. (like) *I would like to have gone to the party.*
- 2 It's a shame I didn't see the programme. (like)
- 3 I'm glad I didn't lose my watch. (hate)
- 4 It's too bad I didn't meet your parents. (love)
- 5 I'm glad I wasn't alone. (not / like)
- 6 We should have travelled by train. (prefer)