

Verb + **-ing** or **to ... 3** (like / would like etc.)**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) .....