

Verb + preposition + -ing (succeed in -ing / insist on -ing etc.)

A

We use some verbs + *preposition* + *object*. For example:

verb + preposition + object

We talked I apologised	about for	the problem. what I said.
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If the *object* is another verb, we use **-ing**:

verb + preposition + -ing

We talked You should apologise	about for	going to South America. not telling the truth.
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You can use these verbs in the same way:

approve of
decide against
dream of
feel like
insist on
look forward to
succeed in
think of/about

He doesn't approve We have decided I wouldn't dream I don't feel They insisted Are you looking forward Has Paul succeeded I'm thinking	of against of like on to in of/about	swearing. moving to London. asking them for money. going out tonight. paying for the meal. going away? finding a job yet? buying a house.
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You can also say 'approve of **somebody** doing something', 'look forward to **somebody** doing something' etc.:

- ☐ I don't approve **of people killing** animals as a sport.
- ☐ We are all looking forward **to Andy coming** home next week.

B

Some verbs can have the structure *verb + object + preposition + -ing*.

For example:

verb + object + preposition + -ing

accuse ... of
congratulate ... on
prevent ... from
stop ... from
suspect ... of
thank ... for

He accused We congratulated What prevented The rain didn't stop Nobody suspected I thanked	me Lisa you us the general everyone	of on from from of for	telling lies. winning the first prize. coming to see us? enjoying our holiday. being a spy. helping me.
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You can say '**stop** somebody **doing**' or '**stop** somebody **from doing**':

- ☐ You can't **stop** me **doing** what I want. or You can't **stop** me **from doing** ...

Note this example with **not -ing**:

- ☐ He accused me of **not telling** the truth.

Some of these verbs are often used in the *passive*. For example:

- ☐ We **were accused of telling** lies. (or ... **accused of lying**.)
- ☐ The general **was suspected of being** a spy.

Note that we say 'apologise **to somebody** for ...':

- ☐ I apologised **to them** for keeping them waiting. (not I apologised them)

Exercises

62.1 Complete the sentences. Use only one word each time.



- Our neighbours apologised for making so much noise.
- I feel lazy. I don't feel like any work.
- I wanted to go out alone, but Joe insisted on with me.
- I'm fed up with my job. I'm thinking of something else.
- We can't afford a car right now, so we've decided against one.
- It took us a long time, but we finally succeeded in the problem.
- I've always dreamed of a small house by the sea.
- It's great that Amy and Sam are coming to visit us. I'm looking forward to them again.

62.2 Complete the sentences. Use a preposition + one of these verbs (in the correct form):



be	eat	get	go out	invite	steal
take off	tell	try	use	walk	

- I don't feel like going out this evening. I'm too tired.
- The police stopped the car because they suspected the driver it.
- Our flight was delayed. Bad weather prevented the plane
- My phone is very old. I'm thinking a new one.
- I didn't want to hear the story but Dan insisted me anyway.
- I'm getting hungry. I'm really looking forward something.
- I think you should apologise to Sarah so rude.
- There's a fence around the lawn to stop people on the grass.
- I'm sorry I can't come to your party, but thank you very much me.
- The man who has been arrested is suspected a false passport.
- I did my best. Nobody can accuse me not



62.3 Complete the sentences on the right.

-  *you*
 *kevin*



It was nice of you to help me. Thanks very much.

Kevin thanked me for helping him.
-  *ann*
 *tom*



I'll take you to the station. I insist.

Tom insisted Ann
-  *you*
 *dan*



I hear you got married. Congratulations!

Dan congratulated me
-  *sue*
 *jen*

It was nice of you to come to see me. Thank you.

Jen thanked
-  *you*
 *kate*

Sorry I'm late.

Kate apologised
-  *you*
 *jane*

You don't care about other people.

Jane accused