

to ... (afraid to do) and
preposition + -ing (afraid of -ing)A **afraid to (do) and afraid of (do)ing**

I am **afraid to do** something =

I don't want to do it because it is dangerous or the result could be bad.

- ☐ This part of town is dangerous. People are **afraid to walk** here at night.
(= they don't walk here at night because it is dangerous)
- ☐ James was **afraid to tell** his parents what had happened.
(= he didn't tell them because he thought they would be angry)

I am **afraid of** something **happening** =

I am afraid that something bad will happen.

- ☐ The path was icy, so we walked very carefully. We were **afraid of falling**.
(= we were afraid that we would fall – *not* afraid to fall)
- ☐ I don't like dogs. I'm always **afraid of being** bitten.
(= I'm afraid that I will be bitten – *not* afraid to be bitten)

So, you are **afraid to do something** because you are **afraid of something happening** as a result:

- ☐ I was **afraid to go** near the dog because I was **afraid of being** bitten.

B **interested in (do)ing and interested to (do)**

I'm **interested in doing** something = I'm thinking of doing it, I would like to do it:

- ☐ Let me know if you're **interested in joining** the club. (*not* to join)
- ☐ I tried to sell my car, but nobody was **interested in buying** it. (*not* to buy)

I was **interested to hear/see/know** something = it was interesting for me. For example:

- ☐ I was **interested to hear** that Tanya left her job.
(= I heard this and it was interesting for me)
- ☐ I'll ask Mike for his opinion. I would be **interested to know** what he thinks.
(= it would be interesting for me to know what he thinks)

This structure is the same as **surprised to ... / glad to ...** etc. (see Unit 65C):

- ☐ I was **surprised to hear** that Tanya left her job.

C **sorry for ... and sorry to ...**

We use **sorry for** (doing) to apologise for something:

- ☐ I'm **sorry for shouting** at you yesterday. (*not* sorry to shout)

You can also say:

- ☐ I'm **sorry I shouted** at you yesterday.

We use **sorry to ...** to say that we regret something that happens:

- ☐ I'm **sorry to hear** that Nicky lost her job. (*not* sorry for)
- ☐ I've enjoyed my stay here. I'll be **sorry to leave**.

We also say '**I'm sorry to ...**' to apologise at the time we do something:

- ☐ I'm **sorry to bother** you, but I need to ask you a question.

D

We say:

I want to (do), I'd like to (do)	<i>but</i>	I'm thinking of (do)ing
I hope to (do)		I dream of (do)ing
I failed to (do)		I succeeded in (do)ing
I allowed them to (do)		I prevented them from (do)ing
I plan to (do)		I'm looking forward to (do)ing
I promised to (do)		I insisted on (do)ing

Exercises

66.1 Write sentences using *afraid to ...* or *afraid of -ing*.

- The streets here are not safe at night.
(a lot of people / afraid / go / out) *A lot of people are afraid to go out.*
- We walked very carefully along the icy path.
(we / afraid / fall) *We were afraid of falling.*
- I don't usually carry my passport with me.
(I / afraid / lose / it)
- I thought she would be angry if I told her what had happened.
(I / afraid / tell / her)
- We ran to the station.
(we / afraid / miss / our train)
- In the middle of the film there was a very horrifying scene.
(we / afraid / look)
- The vase was very valuable, so I held it carefully.
(I / afraid / drop / it)
- If there's anything you want to know, you can ask me.
(don't / afraid / ask)
- I was worried because we didn't have much petrol.
(I / afraid / run out of petrol)

66.2 Complete the sentences using *interested in ...* or *interested to ...*. Choose from these verbs:

buy hear know look start study

- I'm trying to sell my car, but nobody is *interested in buying* it.
- Nicola is her own business.
- I saw Joe recently. You'll be that he's getting married soon.
- I didn't enjoy school. I wasn't
- I went to a public meeting to discuss the plans for a new road. I was how people felt about the project.
- Paul doesn't enjoy sightseeing. He's not at old buildings.

66.3 Complete the sentences using *sorry for ...* or *sorry to ...*. Use the verb in brackets.

- I'm *sorry to bother* you, but I need to ask you something. (bother)
- We were that you can't come to the wedding. (hear)
- I'm bad things about you. I didn't mean what I said. (say)
- It's a shame Alan is leaving the company. I'll be him go. (see)
- I'm so much noise last night. (make)

66.4 Complete the sentences in each group using the verb in brackets.

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|-----|---|---|---------|
| 1 a | We wanted <i>to leave</i> the building. | } | (leave) |
| b | We weren't allowed the building. | | |
| c | We were prevented the building. | | |
| 2 a | Sam and Chris hoped the problem. | } | (solve) |
| b | Sam failed the problem. | | |
| c | Chris succeeded the problem. | | |
| 3 a | I'm thinking away next week. | } | (go) |
| b | I'm planning away next week. | | |
| c | I'd like away next week. | | |
| d | I'm looking forward away next week. | | |
| 4 a | Helen wanted me lunch. | } | (buy) |
| b | Helen insisted me lunch. | | |
| c | Helen promised me lunch. | | |
| d | Helen wouldn't dream me lunch. | | |