

Unit 60

Verb + preposition + -ing

a Many verbs have the structure *verb (V) + preposition (P) + object*. For example, **talk about**:

- We **talked about the problem**. (the problem is the *object*)

If the object another verb, it ends in **-ing**:

- We talked about **going to America**. (V + P + **-ing**)

Here are some more verbs which have the structure V + P + **-ing**:

succeed in feel like (*) think about/of dream of approve/disapprove of	Has Tom succeeded I don't feel Are you thinking I've always dreamed She doesn't approve	in like of/about of of	finding a job yet? going out tonight. buying a house? being rich. gambling.
look forward to insist on decide against apologise for	I'm looking forward He insisted We decided He apologised	to on against for	meeting her. buying me a drink. moving to London. keeping me waiting.

(*) I feel like **doing** = I'd like to do, I'm in the mood to do.

We say 'apologise **to** someone for something':

- He **apologised to me** for **keeping me waiting**. (not 'he apologised me')

With some of these verbs you can also use the structure *verb + preposition + someone + -ing*. For example:

- We are all looking forward to **Peter coming** home.
- She doesn't approve of **her son staying** out late at night.
- They insisted on **me (or my) staying** with them. (See also Unit 35c.)

b These verbs have the structure *verb + object + preposition + -ing*:

accuse suspect congratulate prevent stop thank forgive warn	They accused Did they suspect I congratulated What prevented We stopped I thanked Please forgive They warned	me the man Ann him everyone her me us	of of on from from (*) for for against	telling lies. being a spy? passing the exam. coming to the wedding? leaving the building. being so helpful. not writing to you. buying the car.
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(*) After **stop** you can leave out **from**. So you can say:

- We stopped everyone **leaving (or from leaving)** the building.

Some of these verbs are often used in the passive:

- I **was accused of telling** lies.
- **Was the man suspected of being** a spy?
- **We were warned against buying** it.