

## Understanding -ing forms.

Hello again and welcome back to another post from our Grappling Grammar series. In this week's entry, we will be discussing the main uses of the ing form or the gerund in English. On top of its use in the continuous tenses such as the present continuous in this example: "We are study**ing** English at the moment" (*De momento, estamos estudiando inglés*), we can also use the gerund in a variety of different ways:

### After certain verbs.

In many cases where we use verbs that express likes and dislikes, we can use the ing form after this verb. These verbs can include:

- Like (gustar)
- Dislike (no gustar)
- Love (encantar)
- Hate (odiar)
- Enjoy (disfrutar)
- Not mind (no importar)
- Can't stand (no poder soportar)

Here are some examples of the ing form in use with these verbs:

- He loves going to the cinema with his friends. (*Le encanta ir al cine con sus amigos*)
- She can't stand listening to classical music. (*No puede soportar de escuchar música clásica*)

### Adjective + preposition + ing.

In some expressions including adjectives and prepositions you can include a verb in the ing form such as:

- Good/bad at (*ser bueno/malo en*)
- Crazy about (*loco por*)
- Tired of (*estar cansado de*)
- Keen on/ interested in (*interesado en*)
- Afraid of (*con miedo de*)

Here are some examples:

- James is afraid of spiders (*James tiene miedo a las arañas*)
- We're interested in learning English (*Nos interesa en aprender inglés*)
- John is crazy about playing football (*John está loco por jugar al fútbol*)

## -ing as the subject of the sentence.

The ing form can also be used to form the subject of the sentence. In most cases, the ing subject goes at the start of the sentence. Here are some examples:

- Cycling is good for your health (*El ciclismo es bueno para la salud*)
- Eating a lot of sugar is bad for you (*Comer mucho azúcar es malo para la salud*)
- Spending time with family and friends is fun (*Pasar tiempo con la familia y los amigos es divertido*)

Now it's time to practice your understanding of using ing forms. Check out the activities below:

### 1. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate "-ing" form of the verb provided in parentheses, using the given expressions.

1. She's \_\_\_\_\_ (paint) since she was a child. She's really \_\_\_\_\_ art.  
Expression: keen on

2. My brother is \_\_\_\_\_ (play) the guitar. He's always practicing.  
Expression: good at

3. Jenny is \_\_\_\_\_ (learn) Spanish. She's been taking classes for months.  
Expression: interested in

4. Tom is \_\_\_\_\_ (complain) about his job. He's not happy with it anymore.  
Expression: tired of

5. Sarah is \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) about her new job. She's really excited about it.  
Expression: crazy about

6. Unfortunately, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ (ski). I always fall down.  
Expression: bad at

7. We're \_\_\_\_\_ (camp) this weekend. We love spending time outdoors.  
Expression: keen on

8. The children are \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) cartoons on TV.  
Expression: crazy about

9. James is \_\_\_\_\_ (read) detective novels. He has a huge collection.  
Expression: interested in

10. She's \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) to new places. She loves exploring different cultures.  
Expression: keen on

**2. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate "-ing" form of the verb provided in parentheses, using verbs that express likes and dislikes.**

1. She enjoys \_\_\_\_\_ (read) mystery novels in her free time.
2. We're \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) a movie tonight. Would you like to join us?
3. He hates \_\_\_\_\_ (clean) his room. It's always a mess.
4. They love \_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to classical music while they study.
5. My sister adores \_\_\_\_\_ (bake) cookies on weekends.
6. We dislike \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) in long lines at the supermarket.
7. I don't mind \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) dinner, but I prefer someone else to do the dishes.
8. Jenny avoids \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) spicy food because it upsets her stomach.
9. Tom is fond of \_\_\_\_\_ (play) chess with his grandfather.
10. Sarah is keen on \_\_\_\_\_ (run) in the park every morning before work.

**3. Complete each sentence by providing the appropriate "-ing" form of the verb in parentheses as the subject of the sentence.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (sing) in the shower is one of her favorite pastimes.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) to new countries broadens one's perspective.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (read) before bed helps me relax and unwind.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (dance) is a great form of exercise and expression.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) homemade meals is a rewarding experience for many people.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (play) the piano requires patience and practice.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (study) for exams can be stressful but necessary for academic success.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ (run) in the morning energizes me for the day ahead.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ (write) in a journal can help clarify thoughts and emotions.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ (paint) landscapes allows artists to capture the beauty of nature.

## Answer key.

### 1:

1. painting (keen on)
2. playing (good at)
3. learning (interested in)
4. complaining (tired of)
5. talking (crazy about)
6. skiing (bad at)
7. camping (keen on)
8. watching (crazy about)
9. reading (interested in)
10. traveling (keen on)

### 2:

1. reading
2. watching
3. cleaning
4. listening
5. baking
6. waiting
7. cooking
8. eating
9. playing
10. running

### 3:

1. Singing
2. Traveling
3. Reading
4. Dancing
5. Cooking
6. Playing
7. Studying
8. Running
9. Writing
10. Painting