# ESOL Entry 3 – Verb Patterns 1 - Gerunds

# 1 of 21 – Introduction

In this session, you will learn to use verb patterns.

This is how a verb changes, after it follows a different verb, an adjective, or a preposition.

We are going to focus on using the pattern verb and ‘ing’ after verbs and prepositions.

By the end of this session, you will be able to:

* Know why we use ‘ing’ after certain verbs.
* Know what a preposition is, and how they work in verb patterns.
* Be able to use ‘ing’ correctly after prepositions.

# 2 of 21 – Verb Patterns

A pattern is something that is repeated. This means it is predictable.

In English, we have **verb patterns**. This is a predictable piece of grammar.

It is important to study this because it helps us to sound more natural and it really helps with fluency.

# 3 of 21 – Verb patterns and using two verbs

Let's start, by looking at some sentences.

Let’s consider these sentences:

I enjoy to watch television.

I enjoy watching television.

I want to eat something.

I want eating something.

Which do you think are correct?

The correct sentences are:

I enjoy watching television, and I want to eat something.

A verb, is a doing or being word.

Notice how we have two verbs, in each sentence.

In the first sentence, we have ‘enjoy’ and ‘watch’.

I enjoy watching television, has two verbs: ‘enjoy’ and ‘watch’.

In the third sentence, we have ‘want’ and ‘eat’.

I want to eat something, has two verbs: ‘want’ and ‘eat’.

Notice how we change the second verb.

It isn't natural, to just have two verbs directly together.

We would never say: I enjoy watch television, or I want eat something.

# 4 of 21 – Verbs after ‘enjoy’ and ‘want’

After the verb ‘enjoy’ if we have another verb, then we use ‘ing’.

For example, in the sentence, I enjoy watching television.

After the verb ‘want’ if we have another verb, then we use ‘to’ and another verb.

For example, in the sentence, I want to eat something.

# 5 of 21 – Verbs after ‘enjoy’ and ‘want’ continued

After the verb ‘enjoy’, it isn't natural to use ’to’ and another verb.

For example, we would not say: I enjoy to watch television.

Instead, we use the verb ‘enjoy’ and another verb plus ‘ing’.

For example: I enjoy watching television.

Also, after the verb ‘want’, it isn't natural to use another verb and ‘ing’.

For example, we would not say: I want eating something.

Instead, we use the verb ‘want’ and ‘to’ and another verb.

For example: I want to eat something.

# 6 of 21 – Explaining the rules

Why can’t we say:

I enjoy to watch television, or, I want eating something.

This is because, it is not natural to use ‘enjoy’ and ‘to’ and another verb.

And it is not natural to use ‘want’ and another verb and ‘ing’.

They are not natural.

They are not things that are typical in English.

The rules are:

The two main verb patterns are:

A verb, and another verb, and ‘ing’,

or a verb, and ‘to’ and another verb.

# 7 of 21 – Verb + Verb + ‘ing’

To learn more about verb + verb + ‘ing’, watch the accompanying video, if available, or continue to view video transcript:

Let's watch a video on using a verb and another verb and ‘ing’.

We will learn about the verbs we typically use this pattern with.

We will also look at how we use helping words with this pattern.

Some verbs follow the pattern verb, plus verb, plus, ‘ing’. For example, enjoy doing, like doing, start doing, stop doing, finish doing and avoid doing.

Here are some examples of using these in full sentences:

* I enjoy watching films.
* I like cooking.
* I started going to the gym.
* I've stopped smoking.

The first verb is the main verb. The first verb tells us the tense. For example, enjoy is the first verb in the sentence, I enjoy watching films or in the sentence, I enjoyed watching films.

Only the first verb can use a helping word. For example, in the sentence, I like cooking, we can use the helping word don't to make, I don't like cooking.

The second verb can't have a helping word. For example, we would never say, I hate don't sleeping. We can say, I hate not sleeping.

The best way to think of this is as collocations. For example: like doing, enjoy doing, hate doing, like not doing, enjoy not doing or hate not doing.

A collocation is a typical, every day expression.

These are some of the most typical verbs, that are followed by another verb and ‘ing’:

* Enjoy - for example, I enjoy exercising and going to the gym.
* Keep - for example, I will keep studying until I understand this.
* Mind - for example, Would you mind helping me with the dishes?
* Finish - for example, When I finish cooking I'll call my mum.
* Discuss - for example, We discussed buying a new car.
* Fancy - for example, Do you fancy going for a walk round the park?

# 8 of 21 – Question 1

Let’s practise using verb + verb + ‘ing’.

Are these sentences correct or are they incorrect? Make a note of your ideas and compare them with the answers below.

1. I enjoy relaxing with my family at the weekends.

2. I enjoy don’t going to work on Sundays.

3. He keeps shout at me all the time.

4. I don’t remember locking the door. I’d better go back.

5. I like play computer games with my son.

6. I’ve finished doing my homework. Can I go out now?

**Answers:**

1. **Correct**

After enjoy, we use verb + ‘ing’.

2. **Incorrect:** This should say: I don’t enjoy not going to work on Sundays.

Don’t goes before the first verb. We need to use ‘not’ before the second verb.

3. **Incorrect:** This should say: He keeps shouting at me all the time.

After keep, we use verb + ‘ing’.

4. **Correct**

When we have forgotten something we use verb + ‘ing’ after remember.

5. **Incorrect:** This should say: I like playing computer games with my son.

We can also use ‘I like to play…’

After ‘like’ we need to use verb + ‘ing’ or ‘to’ + verb.

6. **Correct**

After finish, we use verb + ‘ing’.

# 9 of 21 – Gerund as a noun

There is a different way to look at verb plus verb plus ‘ing’.

This idea helps some learners understand the concept better.

After certain verbs, for instance, love, fancy, enjoy and practise, we use nouns.

For example, in the following sentences:

I love my children.

I fancy Indian food tonight. (Fancy means want to have something, or want to do something).

I enjoy action films.

I practise the piano every day.

Nouns are things like people, places, names and objects.

# 10 of 21 – Changing a verb to a noun

If we add ‘ing’, we can change a verb, to a noun.

For example:

Play plus ‘ing’ equals a noun.

And have plus ‘ing’ equals a noun.

Here are further examples:

I love talking to my children.

I fancy having Indian food tonight.

I enjoy watching action films.

I practise playing the piano every day.

Talking, having, watching and playing are all nouns.

A gerund is a verb plus ‘ing’ noun.

# 11 of 21 – Examples of the gerund

Here are some examples of the gerund.

A gerund is a noun made from a verb plus ‘ing’.

I love **cooking**.

I fancy **going out**.

I enjoy **reading**.

I don't remember **locking the door** this morning.

**Cooking**, **going out**, **reading**, and **locking the door**, are all **nouns**.

They are names of activities.

# 12 of 21 – Gerund as a noun – video

To learn more about gerund as a noun watch the accompanying video, if available, or continue to view the video transcript:

Let's watch a video on using nouns made from verb and ‘ing’.

For some learners, this is a useful resource.

If this idea isn’t useful for you, don’t worry about it.

After certain verbs, we add another verb and ‘ing’.

Another way to look at this is, after these verbs, we use a noun. For example:

I like cats.

I enjoy food.

In English, we can make a noun like this:

Verb plus ‘ing’ equals a noun. For example:

cook plus ‘ing’ equals cooking.

Other sentence examples are:

I like cats (where cat is the noun).

I like cooking (where cooking is the noun).

I like playing with my cat (where playing is the noun).

I enjoy swimming (where swimming is the noun).

Maybe cooking, playing and swimming aren’t verbs. Maybe they are the names of activities.

# 13 of 21 – Gerunds as subjects

We often use gerunds (verb + ‘ing’) for the names of activities:

What are your hobbies?

**Reading**. I read every day before I go to sleep.

What are you doing?

**Studying**. I’ve got a maths exam tomorrow.

What things do you really not like?

**Smoking**. It’s so bad for people and it stinks!

(It stinks means it smells really bad).

# 14 of 21 – Question 2

Let’s practise using **gerunds** for the names of activities.

Fill in the **blanks** with the following words: **relaxing**, **Going to**, **Finding**, **Seeing** and **Cutting**.

1. **BLANK** the gym is the thing I like to do to stay fit.

2. Just **BLANK** with my family. Sunday isn’t a time for work.

3. **BLANK** new recipes. I’m always interested in cooking new things.

4. **BLANK** down on sugar. It should help me to lose a bit of weight.

5. **BLANK** my family. They live in Africa, so I never get to see them in person anymore.

**Answers:**

1. **Going to** the gym is the thing I like to do to stay fit.

Think about the most natural combination of words: go to the gym.

2. Just **relaxing** with my family. Sunday isn’t a time for work.

Think about the most natural combination of words: relax with my family.

3. **Finding** new recipes. I’m always interested in cooking new things.

Think about the most natural combination of words: find new recipes.

4. **Cutting** down on sugar. It should help me to lose a bit of weight.

Think about the most natural combination of words: cut down on sugar.

5. **Seeing** my family. They live in Africa, so I never get to see them in person anymore.

Think about the most natural combination of words: see my family.

# 15 of 21 – Gerunds in answers

These sentences are replies to questions. What were the questions, do you think? Have a look to see if you were correct. The questions have been given below.

1. Going to the gym is the thing I like doing to stay fit.

**What do you like doing to stay fit?**

2. Just relaxing with my family. Sunday isn’t a time for work.

**What do you like doing on Sundays?**

3. Finding new recipes. I’m always interested in cooking new things.

**What do you like doing in your free time?**

4. Cutting down on sugar. It should help me to lose a bit of weight.

**How are you trying to lose weight?**

5. Seeing my family. They live in Africa, so I never get to see them in person anymore.

**What do you miss most about your country of origin?**

# 16 of 21 – Preposition + gerund

Look at this sentence from the quiz. Notice that we have another **gerund**.

**Finding** new recipes. I’m always interested in **cooking** new things.

Before the word **cooking**, we have the word ‘in’.

‘In’ is a preposition. After a preposition we use verb + ‘ing’:

Are you any good at **cooking**?

She’s excited about **getting** a new phone.

# 17 of 21 – Prepositions – video

To learn more about prepositions watch the accompanying video, if available, or continue to view video transcript:

Watch this short video on prepositions. Prepositions are words which show the relationship between things. You will probably already know all the main prepositions in English.

What are prepositions?

Prepositions tell us where or when something is. For example:

*on the table*

*under the table*

*next to the table*

*in the box*

verb + preposition can also tell us where something moves. For example:

*come out of the box*

Prepositions often follow a verb or an adjective. These are called Dependent prepositions. For example:

**scared of** I’m not scared **of** flying.

**think about** I thought **about** buying it.

**good at** She’s good **at** doing maths.

**sorry for** Sorry **for** being late.

**prevent from** I was prevented **from** leaving!

There are no real rules for which preposition to use for these. You have to learn them one at a time.

But don’t worry. Many are so common that they just sound good!

# 18 of 21 – Question 3

Let’s practise our knowledge of **prepositions**.

Fill in the **blanks** with the following words: up, away, for, in, on, up, On, with, in, along, at.

1. If you look **BLANK** the bag, you’ll see it **BLANK** the bottom.

2. If it’s broken, put it **BLANK** the bin.

3. Put your coat **BLANK**. It’s cold outside.

4. Do your coat **BLANK**. It’s cold outside.

5. I need to take it back to the shop, but I threw **BLANK** the receipt.

6. If you’re busy, I’ll catch **BLANK** **BLANK** you later.

7. **BLANK** holiday, we went **BLANK** a walk **BLANK** the beach.

**Answers:**

1. If you look **in** the bag, you’ll see it **at** the bottom.

2. If it’s broken, put it **in** the bin.

3. Put your coat **on**. It’s cold outside.

4. Do your coat **up**. It’s cold outside.

5. I need to take it back to the shop, but I threw **away** the receipt.

6. If you’re busy, I’ll catch **up with** you later.

7. **On** holiday, we went **for** a walk **along** the beach.

# 19 of 21 – Verb patterns and prepositions – video

To learn more about verb patterns and prepositions watch the accompanying video, if available, or continue to view video transcript:

Now watch this short video on verb patterns and prepositions.

Video transcript:

Verb Patterns.

Verb + Verb.

After prepositions ‘ING’.

What is a preposition?

A preposition is a word which tells us

* where something is:

*I’m* ***in*** *the supermarket* ***by*** *the fruit and veg.*

* when something is:

*She goes to work* ***at*** *5* ***on*** *most mornings.*

Prepositions are also used to

* show the relationship between things:

*I feel sorry* ***for*** *you.*

* make phrasal verbs (verb + preposition)

*She gave* ***up*** *smoking last year.*

The most common prepositions are:

* of
* with
* at
* from
* into
* to
* in
* for
* on
* by
* after
* about
* before
* up
* around

After prepositions, we also use verb + ‘ing’.

Here are a few examples.

give up **smoking**

tired of **waiting**

apologies for **forgetting**

stop it from **happening**

do it by **working hard**

# 20 of 21 – Question 4

This is a challenge.

Fill in the blanks below with the following phrases to complete the dependent prepositions in the sentences.

**Phrases:**

* playing outside.
* getting a new one.
* laughing
* seeing the dentist.
* I don’t like it.
* taking the dog for a walk.
* smoking, but it’s tough.

1. I not scared of flying, but **BLANK**

2. If it’s broken, think about **BLANK**

3. I’ve been trying to give up **BLANK**

4. He told me without **BLANK**

5. Do your homework before **BLANK**

6. I had breakfast after **BLANK**

7. You should really think about **BLANK**

**Answers:**

1. I not scared of flying, **but I don’t like it.**

2. If it’s broken, think about **getting a new one.**

3. I’ve been trying to give up **smoking, but it’s tough.**

4. He told me without **laughing.**

5. Do your homework before **playing outside.**

6. I had breakfast after **taking the dog for a walk.**

7. You should really think about **seeing the dentist.**

# 21 of 21 - Conclusion

Well done. You have completed this session on Verb Patterns 1 - Gerunds.

You should now:

* Know why we use ‘ing’ after certain verbs,
* Know what a preposition is and how they work in verb patterns,
* Be able to use ‘ing’ correctly after prepositions.

If you have any questions about anything covered in this session, please speak to your tutor for more help.