

We use verb + ing...

- a) After prepositions: *Before reading the text, we'll take a look at the title.*
- b) After certain verbs + object: *I can't stand the thought of him playing the drums.*
- c) As part of a continuous verb form: *I am listening to the audio track.*
- d) "Being" as part of continuous passive verb forms: *When we entered the room, the child was being told off by its mother.*
- e) After certain verbs (verb patterns and state verbs): *I dislike eating snails.*
- f) After **despite** or **in spite of**: *Despite feeling under the weather, she went to the audition.*
- g) As the subject (or part of the subject) of a verb: *Parking your car in the middle of my driveway is out of the question.*
- h) In reduced relative clauses¹: *The lady dancing on the stage is your aunt.*
- i) As an adjective: *He's a really interesting person to talk to.*
- j) After certain expressions: *It's no use / It's no good, there's no point in, it's (not) worth, have difficulty/trouble, a waste of money/time, go*
- k) When two things happen at the same time: *He ran out of the house shouting.*
- l) When one action happens during another action: *He hurt his ankle playing basketball.*
- m) After while or when: *I was reading a book while listening to the radio.*
- n) If one short action follows another short action: *Taking her keys out of her pocket, she opened the car.*
- o) To explain something, or to say why somebody does something.
Then it usually comes at the beginning of the sentence:
 - *Being unemployed is a very difficult situation to deal.*
 - *Having already seen the film twice, I decided to watch something else.*
- p) Be / get used to: *When I first arrived to Scotland, I had to get used to driving on the left. As I have now been living here for two years, I am now more than used to driving on the left.*

¹ Reduced relative clauses can take place when the defining relative clause contains a continuous or passive verb form. In these cases, the *who*, *that* or *which* and the auxiliary can be left out. This structure is very common in spoken English: The man (who was) painting the fence is my neighbor.