

# The -ing form B1

**-ing as subject; before/after etc. + -ing;**  
**prepositions + -ing; go/come + -ing**


## A Context listening


**A1** Look at this list of things people use computers for. Do you use a computer for any of these things? Do you know other people who do?

booking accommodation   buying tickets   doing homework  
downloading music   finding out information   having online conversations  
paying bills   planning holidays   playing games   writing emails

**A2**  **20** You are going to hear Mickey and Cristina having a conversation.

- 1 What doesn't Cristina enjoy?
- 2 What has Mickey used the computer for this afternoon?

**A3**  **20** Listen again and match the questions to the answers below. Stop the recording if you need to.

- 1 What does the manager's new notice say? ..... 
- 2 How long has Mickey been on the internet? .....
- 3 When do Mickey and Cristina need to get plenty of information? .....
- 4 When did Mickey find the website about Doubtful Sound? .....
- 5 What did Mickey promise Cristina? .....
- 6 What is one of the main attractions of the trip? .....
- 7 What is a possibility on the trip? .....
- 8 When should people tell the company if they are vegetarians? .....
- 9 When does Cristina need a good coffee? .....

- A While looking for ideas about South Island.
- B To go walking with her on holiday.
- C After working in that office all day.
- D No talking except on business.
- E Before planning their holiday.
- F Since finishing his essay.
- G Taking photographs.
- H Seeing penguins.
- I When booking.

**A4** Look at your answers to A3.

What kind of word follows *since*, *before*, *while*, *when* and *after*?



## B Grammar

### B1 The **-ing** form as subject

We often use the **-ing** form as the subject of a verb:

***Running** is good exercise.*

We can use a noun with the **-ing** form:

***Running a marathon** is good exercise.*

You often see **-ing** and **No + -ing** in signs and notices:

***Parking** is not allowed.*

***No talking** except on business.*

→C1

### B2 **Before, after, when, while and since + -ing**

**Before** or **after + -ing** shows what happens first and what happens second:

*We'll look at the website **before booking** our trip.* (= 1 We'll look at the website. 2 We'll book our trip.)

*We booked our trip **after looking** at the website.* (= 1 We looked at the website. 2 We booked our trip.)

**When + -ing** shows that two actions happen at the same time:

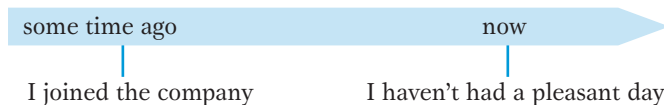
*I dropped my passport **when getting** off the train.* (= I got off the train and I dropped my passport at the same time.)

**While + -ing** shows that one action happens in the middle of another:

*I found this website **while looking** for ideas about South Island.* (= I looked for ideas about South Island for some time. I found the website during that time.)

**Since + -ing** shows when an action began:

*I haven't had a pleasant day **since joining** that company.*



We can also use **before, after, when, while** and **since** at the beginning of a sentence:

***Since finishing** my essay, I've been on the internet.*

**⚠** The subject of the **-ing** form must be the same as the verb in the other part of the sentence:

***Before leaving** the room, I turned the computer off.* (= I turned the computer off,

I left the room.)

→C2, C3

### B3 **By, without and for + -ing**

We use **by/without/for + -ing** to show how we do something, or how something happens.

*We can book **by filling** in this form online.*

*We can do it **without leaving** the house.*

*I use my computer **for downloading** music.*

### B4 **go and come + -ing**

We use **go + -ing** to talk about some sports and other activities:

***Can we go walking** there?*

When we invite someone to join us, we use **come + the -ing** form:

***Would you like to come swimming** with me?*

→C4

## C Grammar exercises

**C1** Complete the notices so that they mean the same as these sentences. Use the *-ing* form and any other words you need.

1 Only employees can park here.



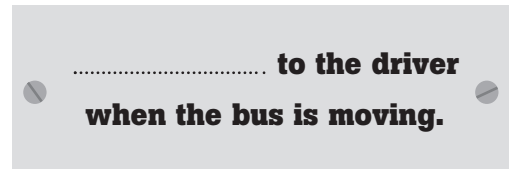
4 You must not cycle on this path.



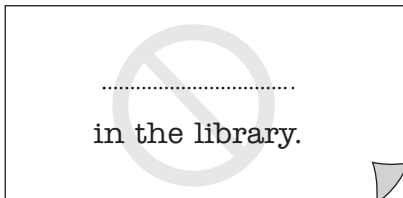
2 You aren't allowed to smoke.



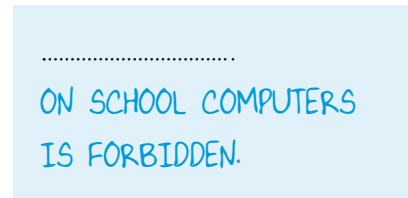
5 Do not talk to the driver when the bus is moving.



3 You are forbidden to eat or drink in the library.



6 Do not play games on school computers.



**C2** Make each pair of sentences into one sentence, using the word given + *-ing*.

1 Use the kitchen. Clear the table. (*after*) .....  
.....

2 Check the address. Post the parcel. (*before*)  
.....

3 Read the instructions. Connect the mouse to the keyboard. (*before*)  
.....

4 Ask the price. Book seats for the concert. (*when*)  
.....

5 Pass your exam. Take a holiday. (*after*)  
.....

**C3** Fill in the gaps in this mobile phone conversation.

Use *before, after, when, while* or *since*.

Tom: Hello?

Kai: Tom, I know it's late, but I need to tell you something.

Tom: It's OK. I'm not home yet. I'm back at the taxi office.

Kai: But I thought you got a taxi immediately 1 .....*after*..... leaving the club.

Tom: I did. But 2 ..... getting into the taxi, I haven't been able to find my wallet. I can't pay the taxi driver.

Kai: I know where your wallet is. But it's empty.

Tom: What?

Kai: Well, I left the club soon after you, and 3 ..... waiting for my bus, I noticed a wallet on the pavement. I looked round 4 ..... picking it up, but there wasn't anyone near. 5 ..... looking in it for a name or address, I thought about taking it to the police station. But then I noticed the initials on it and guessed it might be yours. Someone probably dropped the wallet 6 ..... taking the money.

Tom: Oh no. I guess I was robbed 7 ..... leaving the club. Can you come to the taxi office and explain?

Kai: Yeah, I suppose someone's got to rescue you. But next time, check your wallet 8 ..... taking a taxi, OK?

**C4** Complete this email with words or phrases from the box.

after eating    before going    ~~being~~    by emailing    for texting    shopping  
since starting    studying    swimming    without dieting

Dear Parissa

How are you? I'm fine now the school holiday has started.

1 .....*Being*..... at home is great because 2 ..... is horrible when the weather is hot.

Could we meet some time soon? We can go 3 ..... and have lunch together.

And then, 4 ..... we can see a film or something. Perhaps you'd like to come

5 ..... with me at the new pool. I go there almost every day.

6 ..... to that pool, I didn't really like swimming, but it's really great, with slides and waves and so on. And the really good news is that I've lost two kilos 7 ..... to swim regularly. And I've done it 8 ..... !

Let me know which day is best for you 9 ..... me. Or you can text me. I've got a new mobile and I can use it 10 ..... .

I look forward to getting your email. Love Abby

## D Exam practice

### Reading Part 1

Look at the text in each question.


What does it say?

Mark the letter next to the correct explanation – **A**, **B** or **C**.

- 1**
- Dear Grant

I'm resting in Glasgow this weekend after spending the week climbing in the Scottish mountains! Then, before flying back to Canada, I'm going to spend two weeks in England.

Elaine


  
\_\_\_\_\_
   
\_\_\_\_\_
   
\_\_\_\_\_
   
\_\_\_\_\_
- A** Elaine is flying from Canada to England.

**B** Elaine is resting before going to England.

**C** Elaine is staying in Glasgow after leaving England.
- 2**
- Students can only see the nurse if they have an appointment.

Ring 3600 before 10am.
- A** It is not possible for students to see the nurse without making an appointment.

**B** Students can get an appointment with the nurse by arriving before 10 am.

**C** Students can see the nurse up to 10 am without having to make an appointment.
- 3**
- Taking photographs is forbidden except in the new gallery where you must request permission.
- A** You are not allowed to take photographs of the new gallery.

**B** You are allowed to use a camera in the new gallery if you ask.

**C** You are allowed to use a camera anywhere except the new gallery.

4 Make sure the door shuts behind you when leaving the building in the evening.

- A The door to this building should be kept closed until the evening.
- B The door to this building should be left open during the day.
- C Don't leave the building in the evening without checking that the door is closed.

5 Sonia  
Since joining the health club I swim every day. Would you like to come swimming with me next Friday when I can take a guest free of charge?  
Andrew

**Andrew wants Sonia to**

- A join the health club so they can swim together.
- B swim with him on a particular day.
- C bring a friend to swim at the health club.

### Grammar focus task

Look at the exam task. Find an example of:

- 1 -ing as subject .....
- 2 go or come + -ing .....
- 3 when + -ing .....
- 4 without + -ing .....
- 5 since + -ing .....