

Verb + preposition + -ing (succeed in -ing /
accuse somebody of -ing etc.)

A

Many verbs have the structure *verb + preposition (in/for/about etc.) + object*.
For example:

<i>verb + preposition + object</i>		
We talked	about	the problem.
You must apologise	for	what you said.

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

<i>verb + preposition + object</i>		
We talked	about	going to South America.
You must apologise	for	not telling the truth.

Some more verbs with this structure:

approve (of)	He doesn't approve	of	swearing .
decide (against)	We have decided	against	moving to London.
dream (of)	I wouldn't dream	of	asking them for money.
feel (like)	Do you feel	like	going out tonight?
insist (on)	They insisted	on	paying for the meal.
look forward (to)	I'm looking forward	to	meeting her.
succeed (in)	Have you succeeded	in	finding a job yet?
think (of/about)	I'm thinking	of/about	buying a house.

You can also say 'approve of **somebody** doing something', 'look forward to **somebody** doing something' etc.:

- ☐ I don't approve **of people killing** animals for fun.
- ☐ We are all looking forward **to Andy coming** home.

B

The following verbs can have the structure *verb + object + preposition + -ing (object)*:

	<i>verb</i>	<i>+ object</i>	<i>+ preposition +</i>	<i>-ing (object)</i>
accuse (of)	They accused	us	of	telling lies.
congratulate (on)	We all congratulated	Lisa	on	winning the first prize.
excuse (for)	Excuse	me	for	phoning you so late.
prevent (from)	What prevented	you	from	coming to see us?
stop (from)	The rain didn't stop	us	from	enjoying our holiday.
suspect (of)	Nobody suspected	the general	of	being a spy.
thank (for)	I forgot to thank	them	for	helping me.

You can say 'stop somebody **doing**' or 'stop somebody **from doing**':

- ☐ You can't **stop** me **doing** what I want. or You can't **stop** me **from doing** what I want.

The following examples are with **not -ing**:

- ☐ They accused us of **not telling** the truth.
- ☐ Excuse me for **not replying** to your email until now.

Some of these verbs are often used in the *passive*. For example:

- ☐ We **were accused of telling** lies.
- ☐ The general **was suspected of being** a spy.

Note that we say 'apologise **to somebody** for ...':

- ☐ I apologised **to them** for keeping them waiting. (*not* I apologised them)

62.1 Complete each sentence using only one word.

- Our neighbours apologised for making so much noise.
- I feel lazy. I don't feel like any work.
- I wanted to go out alone, but Joe insisted on with me.
- Where are you thinking of your holiday this year?
- We have decided against a car because we can't really afford it.
- It's good Dan and Amy are coming to stay with us. I'm looking forward to them again.
- Some parents don't approve of their children a lot of TV.
- It took us a long time, but we finally succeeded in the problem.
- I've always dreamed of a small house by the sea.

62.2 Complete each sentence using a preposition + one of the following verbs (in the correct form):

be	cause	do	eat	escape	go
interrupt	invite	tell	use	walk	wear

- Do you feel like going out this evening?
- The driver of the other car accused me the accident.
- There's a fence around the lawn to stop people on the grass.
- Excuse me you, but may I ask you something?
- The man who has been arrested is suspected a false passport.
- I'm fed up with my job. I'm thinking something else.
- The guards weren't able to prevent the prisoner
- I didn't want to hear the story, but Dan insisted me.
- I'm getting hungry. I'm really looking forward something.
- I think you should apologise to Sue so rude to her.
- I'm sorry I can't come to your party, but thank you very much me.
- The police stopped the car because they suspected the driver not a seat belt.

62.3 Complete the sentences on the right.

-  YOU
  KEVIN

It was nice of you to help me. Thanks very much.

 Kevin thanked me for helping him.
-  ANN
  TOM

I'll take you to the station. I insist.

 Tom insisted Ann
-  YOU
  DAN

I hear you got married. Congratulations!

 Dan congratulated me
-  SUE
  JENNY

It was nice of you to come to see me. Thank you.

 Jenny thanked
-  YOU
  KATE

I'm sorry I didn't phone earlier.

 Kate apologised
-  YOU
  JANE

You're selfish.

 Jane accused