

Expressions + -ing

When these expressions are followed by a verb, the verb ends in **-ing**:

It's no use... / It's no good...:

- There's nothing you can do about the situation, so **it's no use worrying** about it.
- It's **no good trying** to persuade me. You won't succeed.

There's no point in...:

- There's **no point in having** a car if you never use it.
- There **was no point in waiting** any longer, so we went.

It's (not) worth...:

- I live only a short walk from here, so **it's not worth taking** a taxi.
- It was so late when we got home, **it wasn't worth going** to bed.

You can say 'a film is **worth seeing**', 'a book is **worth reading**', etc.

- What was the film like? Was it **worth seeing**?
- I don't think newspapers are **worth reading**.

(Have) difficulty -ing

We say 'have difficulty doing something' (*not* 'to do'):

- I had **difficulty finding** a place to live. (*not* 'I had difficulty to find')
- Did you have any **difficulty getting** a visa?
- People often have great **difficulty reading** my writing.

We usually say 'have **difficulty**' (*not* 'have difficulties'):

- I'm sure you'll have no **difficulty passing** the exam. (*not* 'have no difficulties')

We use -ing after:

a waste of money... / a waste of time... (to... is also possible):

- It was a **waste of time reading** that book. It was rubbish.
- It's a **waste of money buying** things you don't need.

spend/waste (time)...:

- He **spent hours trying** to repair the clock.
- I **waste a lot of time daydreaming**.

(be) busy...:

- She said she couldn't see me. She was too **busy doing** other things.

Go swimming / go fishing etc.

We use **go -ing** for a number of activities (especially sports). For example, you can say:
go swimming / go sailing / go fishing / go climbing / go skiing / go jogging etc.

also: **go shopping / go sightseeing.**

- I'd like to **go skiing**.
- When did you last **go shopping**?
- I've never **been sailing**. (For **been** and **gone**, see Unit 7D.)

You can also say '**come swimming / come skiing**' etc.:

- Why don't you **come swimming** with us?

EXERCISES

Complete the sentences on the right.

- Shall we get a taxi home?
- If you need help, why don't you ask Tom?
- I don't really want to go out tonight.
- Shall I phone Ann now?
- Are you going to complain about what happened?
- Do you ever read newspapers?

- No, it isn't far. It's not worth getting a taxi...
- It's no use He won't be able to help us.
- Well, stay at home! There's no point if you don't want to.
- No, it's no good She won't be at home.
- No, it's not worth Nobody will do anything about it.
- No. I think it's a waste

Make sentences with **worth -ing** or **not worth -ing**. Choose one of these verbs:

consider keep read repair see visit

- The film isn't very good. It's not worth seeing...
- It would cost too much to repair this watch. It's not worth
- If you have time, you should go to the museum. It's worth
- It's quite an interesting suggestion.
- There's an interesting article in the paper today.
- We can throw these old clothes away. They

Make sentences beginning **There's no point...**

- Why have a car if you never use it? There's no point in having a car if you never use it...
- Don't eat if you're not hungry. There's no
- Why work if you don't need money?
- Don't study if you feel tired.

Write sentences using **difficulty**.

- I managed to get a visa but it was difficult. I had difficulty getting a visa...
- I can't remember people's names. I have difficulty
- Lucy managed to get a job without difficulty. She had no
- Do you find it difficult to understand him? Do you have
- It won't be difficult to get a ticket for the concert.
You won't have any

Complete the sentences. Use only one word each time.

- It's a waste of money buying things you don't need.
- Every morning I spend about an hour the newspaper.
- 'What's Carol doing?' 'She's busy letters.'
- I think you waste too much time television.
- There's a beautiful view from that hill. It is worth to the top.

Complete these sentences with one of the following (with the verb in the correct form):

go skiing go shopping go swimming go sailing go riding

- Barry lives by the sea and he's got a boat, so he often goes sailing...
- There's plenty of snow in the mountains so we'll be able to
- It was a very hot day, so we in the river.
- Margaret has got two horses. She often
- The shops are shut now. It's too late to

59.2

- 2 by standing on a chair.
- 3 by turning a key.
- 4 by borrowing too much money.
- 5 by driving too fast.
- 6 by putting some posters up on the walls.

59.3

- 2 paying
- 3 going
- 4 saying
- 5 going
- 6 using
- 7 travelling / being
- 8 telling
- 9 doing / having

59.4

- 2 I'm looking forward to seeing her.
- 3 I'm not looking forward to going to the dentist.
- 4 She's looking forward to leaving school (next summer).
- 5 I'm looking forward to playing tennis (tomorrow).

UNIT 60

60.1

- 2 he wasn't used to having dinner so early, but after some time he got used to it. ... He is used to having dinner at six o'clock. (or He is used to eating at six o'clock.)
- 3 She wasn't used to working nights ... to get used to it ... She is used to working nights.

60.2

- 2 No, I'm used to sleeping on the floor.
- 3 I'm used to working hard. / I'm used to hard work.
- 4 I'm not used to going to bed (so) late.

60.3

- 2 He wasn't used to the heat / ...to the hot weather / ...to living in a hot climate.
- 3 She had to get used to living
- 4 The children soon got used to her. / ...to their new teacher.
- 5 (example answers) You would have to get used to the weather / to the food / to speaking a foreign language.

60.4

- 3 drink
- 4 eating
- 5 having
- 6 have
- 7 go
- 8 be
- 9 being

UNIT 61

61.1

- 2 doing
- 3 coming / going
- 4 doing / trying
- 5 buying
- 6 hearing
- 7 going
- 8 having
- 9 being
- 10 watching
- 11 inviting / asking

61.2

- 2 in solving
- 3 of living
- 4 of causing
- 5 (from) walking
- 6 for interrupting
- 7 of spending
- 8 from escaping
- 9 on helping
- 10 to playing

61.3

- 2 Tom insisted on driving Ann to the station.
- 3 Jim congratulated me on getting married.
- 4 Mrs Bond thanked Sue for coming to see her.
- 5 I warned Jack against staying at the hotel near the airport.
- 6 Mary apologised to me for not phoning (me) earlier.
- 7 Jane accused me of being selfish.

UNIT 62

62.1

- 2 It's no use asking Tom.
- 3 There's no point in going out
- 4 it's no good phoning her now
- 5 it's not worth complaining (about what happened)
- 6 I think it's a waste of time reading newspapers.

62.2

- 2 repairing.
- 3 visiting.
- 4 It's worth considering.
- 5 It's worth reading.
- 6 They aren't / They're not worth keeping.

62.3

- 2 There's no point in eating if you're not hungry.
- 3 There's no point in working if you don't need money.
- 4 There's no point in studying if you feel tired.

62.4

- 2 I have difficulty remembering people's names.
- 3 She had no difficulty getting a job.
- 4 Do you have difficulty understanding him?
- 5 You won't have any difficulty getting a ticket for the concert.

62.5

- 2 reading
- 3 writing
- 4 watching
- 5 climbing / going / walking

62.6

- 2 go skiing
- 3 went swimming
- 4 goes riding
- 5 go shopping

UNIT 63

63.1

- 2 I had to go to the bank to get some money.
- 3 I'm saving money to go to Canada.
- 4 I went into hospital to have an operation.
- 5 I'm wearing two pullovers to keep warm.
- 6 I phoned the police station to report that my car had been stolen.

63.2

- 2 to read
- 3 to walk or to go on foot
- 4 to drink
- 5 to put / to carry
- 6 to discuss / to consider / to talk about
- 7 to buy / to get
- 8 to talk / to speak
- 9 to wear / to put on
- 10 to celebrate
- 11 to help / to assist

63.3

- 2 for 6 to
- 3 to 7 for
- 4 to 8 for ... to
- 5 for

63.4

- 2 We wore warm clothes so that we wouldn't get cold.
- 3 The man spoke very slowly so that I would understand what he said. or ...so that I could understand...
- 4 I whispered so that nobody else could hear our conversation. or ...would hear our conversation.
- 5 Please arrive early so that we can start the meeting on time.