

-ing forms in English

“-ing” is a suffix used to make one of the inflected forms of English verbs. There are four important ways to use this form in English

#1: Present participle in **progressive** or **continuous tenses**

Present participles are used to produce adjectival or adverbial phrases.

Examples:

I **am talking** to you right now. (**present progressive** or **present continuous**)

I **have been thinking** a lot about this decision. (**present perfect progressive** or **present perfect continuous**)

You **were** already **sleeping**. (**past progressive** or **past continuous**)

I **will be taking** my friend to the airport. (**future progressive** or **future continuous**)

#2: **Gerund** (the form that names the action of a verb)

Gerunds are used to produce noun phrases.

Examples:

Reading books is fun. (gerund as a subject)

I like **swimming**. (gerund as direct object)

#3: Pure adjectives and nouns

These forms are called deverbial adjectives or nouns.

Examples:

Loud **shouting** is annoying. (*shouting* is a **pure noun**, modified by the adjective *loud*)

It was a very **exciting** game. (*exciting* is a **pure adjective**, modified by the adverb *very*)

#4: -ing form after certain prepositions and verbs

These exceptional cases must be learned by heart.

Examples:

I improved my English *by* **practicing** each day.

I'm sorry *for* **being** late.

I *enjoy* **playing** basketball.

I *keep* **asking** questions intelligent questions.