

# Common expressions with -ing

Lesson code: 11C6-36C8-8VF9

INTERMEDIATE

## 1 Common expressions with -ing

Some very common expressions are followed by a gerund (-ing). Study the table below.

Expression	Examples
have a good/bad/hard/easy time + -ing	I <b>had a good time</b> playing football. We <b>had a hard time</b> sleeping because of the noise. Joe will <b>have an easy time</b> smiling if he learns how to relax.
spend/waste time + -ing	Phillip <b>spends a lot of time</b> playing with his kids. Claire didn't want to <b>waste time</b> waiting in traffic.
have a/no problem + -ing	Patrick <b>has a problem</b> waking up in the morning. I <b>have no problem</b> sleeping.
have (no) difficulty + -ing	Do you <b>have difficulty</b> driving at night? She <b>has no difficulty</b> meeting new people.
have fun + -ing	They <b>had fun</b> dancing last night.
There's no point + -ing	There's <b>no point</b> calling him. He never answers the phone.
It's worth + -ing	<b>It's worth</b> paying to enter that club.



## 2 Practice 1

Complete each sentence using one of the following verbs.

buy	cheat	drive	find	learn
play	run	watch	swim	work

- Don't waste your time watching television. You've got homework to do!
- Janet doesn't have any problems \_\_\_\_\_ foreign languages. She's very talented.
- It's not worth \_\_\_\_\_ in your exam. You might get caught.
- Dave has difficulty \_\_\_\_\_ his old car. It keeps breaking down.
- Did you have any problems \_\_\_\_\_ our office?
- Carl spends a lot of time \_\_\_\_\_ in the park. He wants to keep fit.
- I had a really nice time \_\_\_\_\_ in the sea.
- We had a hard time \_\_\_\_\_ for Mr Cooke. He was a very difficult boss.
- Is it worth \_\_\_\_\_ a more expensive computer?
- The children had fun \_\_\_\_\_ games in the garden.

## 3 Practice 2

Complete the sentences using your own ideas.

- Martin forgot his glasses. He has a hard time .....
- Margaret is very confident. She's has no problem .....
- Ahmed has asthma. He often has difficulty .....
- The weather is terrible today. There's no point .....
- There aren't many good films at the moment. It's not worth .....
- Tito loves the outdoors. He spends a lot of time .....
- Julia doesn't do much at work. She wastes too much time .....

## 4 Practice 3

Answer the questions about you.

- What do you usually have a hard time doing?
- What did you have fun doing when you were a child?
- Do you have difficulty waking up in the morning?
- What do you spend time doing at the weekend?
- What do you sometimes waste time doing?
- What do you think is worth waiting for?
- What do you think is not worth waiting for?



**2 Practice 1**

2. learning
3. cheating
4. driving
5. finding
6. running
7. swimming
8. working
9. buying
10. playing

**3 Practice 2**

*Possible answers:*

1. seeing the whiteboard
2. speaking in public
3. breathing
4. going out for a walk
5. going to the cinema
6. hiking in the mountains
7. chatting to her friends on Facebook

**4 Practice 3**

*If done in class, students ask and answer the questions in pairs.*

