

## Verb + -ing or to... (3) (like / would like etc.)

A	like	love	hate	can't bear	can't stand	enjoy	dislike	mind	can't stand
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These verbs and expressions all mean 'like' or 'not like'. They are often followed by -ing:

- Am hates flying.
- Why do you dislike living here?
- I don't like people shouting at me. (= I don't like being shouted at.)

After love, hate and can't bear, you can also use to... So you can say:

- I love meeting people. or I love to meet people.
  - She can't bear being alone. or She can't bear to be alone.
- But after enjoy / dislike / mind / can't stand, we use only -ing (not 'to...'):
- I enjoy being alone. (not 'I enjoy to be')
  - Tom doesn't mind working at night. (not 'mind to work')

**B Like**  
You can say 'I like doing something' or 'I like to do something'. Often it doesn't matter which you use, so you can say:

- I like getting up early. or I like to get up early.
- In British English, there is sometimes a difference between 'I like doing' and 'I like to do'.

'I like doing something' means 'I enjoy it':

- Do you like cooking? (= do you enjoy it?)
- I like living here. (= I enjoy it)
- 'I like to do something' means 'I think it is good or right to do it':
- I like to clean the kitchen as often as possible. (This doesn't mean that I enjoy it; it means that I think it is a good thing to do.)
- Mary likes people to be on time.

**C Would like / would love / would hate / would prefer** are usually followed by to... (infinitive):

- I would like to be rich.
- Would you like to come to dinner on Friday?
- I'd love (= would love) to be able to travel round the world.
- Would you prefer to have dinner now or later?

Compare I like and I would like:

- I like playing / to play tennis. (= I enjoy it in general)
- I would like to play tennis today. (= I want to play today)

Note that would mind is followed by -ing (not to...):

- Would you mind closing the door, please?

**D** You can also say 'I would like to have done something' (= I regret now that I didn't or couldn't do something):

- It's a pity we didn't see Val when we were in London. I would like to have seen her again.
- We'd like to have gone on holiday but we didn't have enough money.

You can use the same structure after would love / would hate / would prefer:

- Poor old Tom! I would hate to have been in his position.
- I'd love to have gone to the party but it was impossible.

## EXERCISES

**57.1** Complete the sentences with likes... or doesn't like... + one of the following (in the correct form):

- |                  |            |                      |     |                 |
|------------------|------------|----------------------|-----|-----------------|
| be kept waiting  | do nothing | drive                | fly | solve mysteries |
| take photographs | take risks | work in the open air |     |                 |
- George is a detective. He enjoys his work. He...likes solving mysteries...
  - Ann very rarely travels by plane. She...doesn't like flying...
  - Rose always carries her camera with her. She.....
  - Christine doesn't use her car very often. She.....
  - Dave is a gardener. He likes his job. He.....
  - Jennifer is a very cautious person. She.....
  - Ted is extremely lazy. He.....
  - Helen is very impatient. She.....

**2** Write sentences about yourself. Say whether you like or don't like these activities. Choose one of these verbs for each sentence: (don't) like love hate enjoy don't mind

- (flying) ..... I don't like flying.
- (playing cards) .....
- (doing the ironing) .....
- (going to museums) .....
- (lying on the beach all day) .....

**3** How would you feel about doing these jobs? In your sentences use one of these:

- |                            |          |          |                 |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| I'd like / I wouldn't like | I'd love | I'd hate | I wouldn't mind |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|-----------------|
- (a teacher) ..... I wouldn't like to be a teacher.
  - (a dentist) .....
  - (a hairdresser) .....
  - (an airline pilot) .....
  - (a tourist guide) .....

**4** Put in a suitable verb in the correct form, -ing or to... Sometimes either form is possible.

- It's nice to be with other people but sometimes I enjoy being alone.
- I'm not quite ready yet. Do you mind ..... a little longer?
- When I was a child, I hated ..... to bed early.
- I don't enjoy ..... letters. I can never think what to write.
- I need a new job. I can't stand ..... here any more.
- I would love ..... to your wedding but I'm afraid it isn't possible.
- Caroline never wears a hat. She doesn't like ..... hats.
- 'Would you like ..... down?' 'No, thanks. I'll stand.'
- When I have to catch a train, I'm always worried that I'll miss it. So I like ..... to the station in plenty of time.
- Have you got a moment? I'd like ..... to you about something.

**5** Write sentences like those in Section D. Use the verb in brackets.

- It's a pity I couldn't go to the wedding. (like) I would like to have gone to the wedding.
- It's a pity I didn't see the programme. (like) .....
- I'm glad I didn't lose my watch. (hate) .....
- It's a pity I didn't meet Ann. (love) .....
- I'm glad I wasn't alone. (not/like) .....
- It's a pity I couldn't travel by train. (prefer) .....