GRAMMAR · UNIT 56%

Gerunds after Prepositions

preposition + -ING — always

before doing	by doing	instead of doing
responsible for doing	interested in doing	look forward to doing

Meet Andrés

Commercial director at an industrial automation company

A food manufacturer wants to replace its old labeling system with an automatic line. Andrés has a great solution — but the client is not ready to decide yet.



The client needs the new line working by June.



The plant manager is afraid of stopping production.



The CFO wants data before approving anything.

Here are the facts. Notice fact 2: 'afraid OF stopping' — that's today's grammar.

The Rule

After a preposition, a verb takes -ING

PREPOSITION + VERB-ING

✘ The plant manager is afraid of stop production.

✔ **The plant manager is afraid of stopping production.**

✘ The CFO talked about change the system.

✔ **The CFO talked about changing the system.**

Tip: if a noun can follow the preposition, so can an -ing form: afraid of the change → afraid of changing

1. Prepositions on Their Own

before · after · by · without · instead of · in spite of

Before signing the contract, the client wants a demo.

After seeing the demo, the plant manager felt better.

By running a pilot, we reduce the client's risk.

We can install the new printers **without stopping** production.

Instead of replacing everything, we can start with one line.

In spite of having a small budget, the client wants a full solution.

Link the Sentences

Use a preposition + -ing to join each pair

1. We will run a demo. Then the client will sign.

2. The client had a small budget. It still bought the full solution.

3. We must test the labels. Then we install the line.

4. We automated the line. We saved two hours a day.

➡️ **Possible answers on the next slide**

Link the Sentences — Possible Answers

Other prepositions may also work

🔑 **ANSWER KEY — Do not show until the student has completed the exercise on the previous slide**

1. *After running a demo, the client will sign. / Before signing, the client will see a demo.*
2. *In spite of having a small budget, the client bought the full solution.*
3. *Before installing the line, we must test the labels.*
4. *By automating the line, we saved two hours a day.*

2. Adjective + Preposition + -ING

How people feel about doing things

The plant manager is **afraid of stopping** production.

The CFO is **interested in reducing** waste.

Andrés is **good at listening** to clients.

The service team is **responsible for maintaining** the printers.

The operators are **worried about learning** a new system.

Common pairs: afraid of · interested in · good at · responsible for · worried about · tired of · proud of · excited about

Your Turn: What Are You…?

Answer with a gerund — about work, travel or life

afraid of…?	**interested in…?**	**good at…?**	**responsible for…?**
tired of…?	**proud of…?**	**excited about…?**	**worried about…?**

Example: 'I'm proud of building long relationships with key accounts.'

3. Noun + Preposition + -ING

The reasons, risks and choices in a decision

What's the **advantage of running** a pilot first?

There's a **risk of stopping** production for two days.

The client has a good **reason for changing** suppliers.

There's a **possibility of expanding** to their Monterrey plant.

The CFO has a **choice between repairing** the old line and **buying** a new one.

Also: the cost of doing nothing · the idea of · the chance of · the problem with

Your Turn: Talk About...

A real deal, project or decision

the advantage of...	**the risk of...**	**a reason for...**	**the possibility of...**
a choice between...	**the cost of...**	**the problem with...**	**the chance of...**

Example: 'The biggest risk of changing suppliers is losing support for old equipment.'

4. Verb + Preposition + -ING

What people do, decide and insist on

We **succeeded in reducing** downtime by 30%.

The client **insists on testing** every printer before paying.

This month, we're **focusing on improving** service.

Andrés **apologised for sending** the quote late.

The new sensors **prevent** the line **from stopping**.

Also: think about · talk about · depend on · believe in · specialise in · plan on

Your Turn: Mention Something You...

Use the verb + preposition + -ing

succeeded in...	**insisted on...**	**are focusing on...**	**apologised for...**
are thinking about...	**specialise in...**	**believe in...**	**depend on...**

Example: 'Last quarter we succeeded in winning a new client in the automotive sector.'

5. The TO-Trap

Sometimes TO is a preposition — so it takes -ING

✘ We look forward to hear from you.	✔ **We look forward to hearing from you.**
✘ We are committed to reduce waste.	✔ **We are committed to reducing waste.**
✘ I'm used to travel every week.	✔ **I'm used to travelling every week.**
✘ The client objects to pay for training.	✔ **The client objects to paying for training.**

Noun test: 'look forward to the meeting' ✓ → so: 'look forward to meeting you'

Now It's Your Turn!

Help Andrés — make one sentence for each situation

1 **Convince the plant manager**
by + -ing

2 **Answer the CFO's question**
the advantage of + -ing

3 **Explain who does what**
responsible for + -ing

4 **Apologise for a delay**
apologise for + -ing

5 **Close your email**
look forward to + -ing

6 **Your own real deal this month**
your choice

Remember: preposition + -ING · even after the TO in 'look forward to'

Summary

Five patterns, one rule

Pattern	Examples	Sentence
preposition alone	before / after / by / without / instead of	*By running a pilot, we reduce the risk.*
adjective + prep	afraid of · interested in · responsible for	*She's responsible for training the operators.*
noun + prep	the advantage of · the risk of · a reason for	*There's a risk of stopping production.*
verb + prep	succeed in · insist on · focus on · prevent… from	*We succeeded in reducing downtime.*
the TO-trap	look forward to · committed to · used to	*We look forward to working with you.*

PREPOSITION + VERB-ING — always