

Unit  
63

Expressions + -ing

A

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.

But we usually say 'the point of doing something':

  - What's the point of** having a car if you never use it?
- It's (not) worth**

  - I live only a short walk from here, so **it's not worth** taking a taxi.
  - Our flight was very early in the morning, so **it wasn't worth** going to bed.

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

  - What was the film like? Was it **worth seeing**?
  - Thieves broke into the house but didn't take anything. There was nothing **worth stealing**.

B

Have difficulty -ing, have trouble -ing

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

  - I had no **difficulty** finding a place to live. (*not* difficulty to find)
  - Did you have any **difficulty** getting a visa?
  - People often have **difficulty** reading my writing.
- You can also say 'have trouble doing something':

  - I had no **trouble** finding a place to live.

C

We use -ing after:

- a waste of money / a waste of time**

  - 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 day-dreaming.
- (be) busy**

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

D

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**

*Also go shopping, go sightseeing*

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

Exercises

Unit 63

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

- 1 Why have a car if you never use it?  
*There's no point in having a car if you never use it.*
- 2 Why work if you don't need money?
- 3 Don't try to study if you feel tired.
- 4 Why hurry if you've got plenty of time?

63.2 Complete the sentences on the right.

1 Shall we get a taxi home?

2 If you need help, why don't you ask Dave?

3 I don't really want to go out tonight.

4 Shall I phone Liz now?

5 Are you going to complain about what happened?

6 Do you ever read newspapers?

7 Do you want to keep these old clothes?

No, it isn't far. It's not worth *getting a taxi* .

It's no use . He won't be able to do anything.

Well, stay at home! There's no point if you don't want to.

No, it's no good now. She won't be at home.

No, it's not worth . Nobody will do anything about it.

No, I think it's a waste .

No, let's throw them away. They're not worth .

63.3 Write sentences using difficulty.

- 1 I managed to get a visa, but it was difficult. I had difficulty *getting a visa* .
- 2 I find it hard to remember people's names.  
I have difficulty .
- 3 Lucy managed to get a job without difficulty.  
She had no .
- 4 It won't be difficult to get a ticket for the game.  
You won't have any .

63.4 Complete the sentences. Use only one word each time.

- 1 It's a waste of money *buying* things you don't need.
- 2 Every morning I spend about an hour the newspaper.
- 3 'What's Sue doing?' 'She's going away tomorrow, so she's busy .'.
- 4 I think you waste too much time television.
- 5 There's a beautiful view from that hill. It's worth to the top.
- 6 It's no use for the job. I know I wouldn't get it.
- 7 Just stay calm. There's no point in angry.

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

- go riding ~~go sailing~~ go shopping go skiing go swimming
- 1 Barry lives by the sea and he's got a boat, so he often *goes sailing* .
- 2 It was a very hot day, so we in the lake.
- 3 There's plenty of snow in the mountains, so we'll be able to .
- 4 Helen has got two horses. She regularly.
- 5 'Where's Dan?' 'He's . There were a few things he needed to buy.'