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** worry**ing** about it.
- □ **It's no good** try**ing** to persuade me. You won't succeed.

There's no point in
- □ **There's no point in** hav**ing** a car if you never use it.
- □ **There was no point in** wait**ing** any longer, so we went.

But we usually say '**the** point **of** do**ing** something':
- □ **What's the point of** hav**ing** a car if you never use it?

It's (not) **worth**
- □ I live only a short walk from here, so **it's not worth** tak**ing** a taxi.
- □ Our flight was very early in the morning, so **it wasn't worth** go**ing** 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 do**ing** something' (*not* to do):
- □ I had no **difficulty** find**ing** a place to live. (*not* difficulty to find)
- □ Did you have any **difficulty** gett**ing** a visa?
- □ People often have **difficulty** read**ing** my writing.

You can also say 'have **trouble** doing something':
- □ I had no **trouble** find**ing** a place to live.

C

We use **-ing** after:

a waste of money / a waste of time
- □ It was a **waste of time** read**ing** that book. It was rubbish.
- □ It's a **waste of money** buy**ing** things you don't need.

spend/waste (time)
- □ He **spent** hours try**ing** to repair the clock.
- □ I **waste** a lot of time day-dream**ing**.

(be) **busy**
- □ She said she couldn't see me. She was too **busy** do**ing** 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 swimm**ing**   **go** sail**ing**   **go** fish**ing**   **go** climb**ing**   **go** ski**ing**   **go** jogg**ing**

Also **go** shopp**ing**, **go** sightsee**ing**

- □ How often do you **go** swimm**ing**?
- □ I'd like to **go** ski**ing**.
- □ When did you last **go** shopp**ing**?
- □ I've never **been** sail**ing**. (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?	No, it isn't far. It's not worth *getting a taxi* .
2	If you need help, why don't you ask Dave?	It's no use .... He won't be able to do anything.
3	I don't really want to go out tonight.	Well, stay at home! There's no point .... if you don't want to.
4	Shall I phone Liz now?	No, it's no good .... now. She won't be at home.
5	Are you going to complain about what happened?	No, it's not worth .... Nobody will do anything about it.
6	Do you ever read newspapers?	No, I think it's a waste ....
7	Do you want to keep these old clothes?	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.'

                                                                                    127