

## 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.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Shall we get a taxi home?</li> <li>2 If you need help, why don't you ask Dave?</li> <li>3 I don't really want to go out tonight.</li> <li>4 Shall I phone Liz now?</li> <li>5 Are you going to complain about what happened?</li> <li>6 Do you ever read newspapers?</li> <li>7 Do you want to keep these old clothes?</li> </ol>	<p>No, it isn't far. It's not worth <i>getting a taxi</i> .</p> <p>It's no use ..... . He won't be able to do anything.</p> <p>Well, stay at home! There's no point ..... if you don't want to.</p> <p>No, it's no good ..... now. She won't be at home.</p> <p>No, it's not worth ..... . Nobody will do anything about it.</p> <p>No, I think it's a waste ..... .</p> <p>No, let's throw them away. They're not worth .....</p>
--	--

## 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.'

→ Additional exercises 27–28 (pages 318–19)