

# Talking about your Interests

Expressing likes and dislikes with gerunds.



Photo by Samson Katt from Pexels

## 1. Warm up

A. On your own, write one thing you like and one you don't like in each of the categories.

### Likes

1. Sport .....
2. Music genre or artist .....
3. Food .....

### Dislikes

- .....
- .....
- .....

B. Compare your list with a partner and look for similarities and differences.

## 2. Reading

A. Read the dating profiles of people talking about what they like and don't like doing.

1. My name is Jane. I'm from California and I'm 31 years old. I love going hiking and really like going for a run on the weekends. I'm looking for a man to share this interest with me. I hate sitting on the sofa all day and watching TV, so I'd like to meet someone active.
2. My name is Takashi. I am from Japan, but spent many years living and working in London. My family owns a restaurant where I work as a chef. I love cooking and preparing traditional food. I would like to meet a girl I can cook for. I also really like visiting the local markets on weekends.
3. My name is Carlos. I'm 45 years old and recently divorced. I like visiting museums and I love reading history **books** in my free time. I'm looking for someone I can travel with. I play the guitar and love listening to music and going to concerts.
4. I'm Bruce. I come from Sydney. I love going surfing and playing sports. I also really like going camping and being outdoors. I just love listening to the birds in the morning. I live and travel in my camper van so I'm looking for someone to go on an adventure with!
5. My name is Helen. I'm from Denmark, but I now live in Osaka, Japan. I'm a game developer and love playing video games! I also love trying all the **local food** here in Osaka. I'd like to meet someone who can show me around and who likes going for walks around the city.
6. I'm Eva! I studied art at University and now teach art history at my local college. I love visiting art galleries. I also like traveling, especially around Europe. I don't really like staying in one place. I like reading travel magazines and planning future trips.

B. Decide which people would make good matches. Circle the evidence in the text.

1. Which two people are 'foodies' and like food? ..... and .....
2. Who likes being active and outdoors? ..... and .....
3. Which two people like traveling to different places? ..... and .....

### 3. Vocabulary

Match the objects to the verbs in the box to form collocations.

- |                                |                                 |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> read  | <input type="checkbox"/> go     | <input type="checkbox"/> go for |
| <input type="checkbox"/> go to | <input type="checkbox"/> listen | <input type="checkbox"/> visit  |

- |                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. .... dinner / a run / a drink | 4. .... hiking / camping / surfing  |
| 2. .... museums / my friends     | 5. .... books / magazines           |
| 3. .... the movies / concerts    | 6. .... to birds singing / to music |

### 4. Expressing Likes and Dislikes with Gerunds

A. Study the information about forming gerunds.

A gerund (pronounced JER-und) is a verb that acts as a noun; the verb becomes a thing or activity. A gerund is formed with a verb ending in ~ing. It can be used as the subject or object in a sentence.

	Subject	Verb	Gerund	Object	Gerund	Verb	Object / Adjective
1.	We	like	playing	tennis.	3.	Swimming	is good exercise.
2.	I	don't like	eating	spicy food.	4.	Watching sport	is boring.

B. Complete the sentences with information from the dating profiles.

	Subject	Gerund	Object / Prepositional phrase
1.	Eva	.....	in one place. ....
2.	Bruce	.....	to the birds. ....
3.	Takashi	.....	the local markets. ....
4.	Carlos	likes	.....
5.	Helen	likes	.....

### 5. Conversation

A. Use your ideas from Part 1A to make sentences about the things you like and don't like. Write them as sentences below. Be sure to use gerunds.

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....

B. Tell you partner the things you like and don't like doing. Ask follow-up questions to continue the conversation.

# Talking about your Interests



Level:	Elementary: A2 Pre-Intermediate: A2+
Updated:	Feb 3, 2023
Language:	Function: Expressing needs and likes. Forms: Verb noun collocations
Target time:	60 minutes.
Overview:	Students are introduced to common verb noun collocations for hobbies and interests and will be able to confidently discuss likes and dislikes using Gerunds.

## 1. WARM-UP

A warm up activity helps set the mood for the topic/lesson and is a good opportunity to assess students' ability to generate language as well as elicit target vocabulary used in the lesson. If students struggle to engage with their partners, ask questions to encourage participation. Allow a few minutes for students to complete the activity and continue the conversation if interesting.

- A. Individually, students write down one thing they like and dislike for each category. Encourage students to write nouns. For example:

	Likes	Dislikes
Food	ice cream	spicy food

- B. In pairs, students present their likes and dislikes in each category to each other by saying, "I like ice cream, I dislike/don't like spicy food." Elicit information from student pairs to share with the class.

## 2. READING

- A. In pairs, students alternate reading the dating profiles. Encourage students to underline any unknown words to discuss afterwards. Answer any questions that arise.
- B. Individually or in pairs, students answer 1-3 and circle evidence in the text. Students can compare their answers with a partner and discuss any differences or check answers as a class by eliciting matches from students and asking for evidence from the text.

### 1. Takashi and Helen

Takashi: I love cooking and preparing traditional food.  
Helen: I also love trying all the local food here in Osaka.

Takashi and Helen both love food and enjoy experiencing traditional culture, places and food.

### 2. Bruce and Jane

Bruce: I love going surfing and playing sports.  
I also really like going camping and being outdoors.  
Jane: I love going hiking and really like going for a run.  
I hate sitting on the sofa all day and watching TV.

Bruce and Jane are both active people and love being outdoors and doing sport.

### 3. Carlos and Eva

Carlos: I am looking for a lady I can travel with.  
Eva: I also like traveling especially around Europe.

Carlos and Eva both like visiting museums/galleries and like reading magazines and articles.

## 3. VOCABULARY

Individually, students match the verbs in the box to objects 1-6 to form verb noun collocations. Students can compare their answers with a partner or check answers with the class. The phrases are all included in the dating profiles in Part 2A.

- go for dinner / a run / a drink
- visit museums / my friends
- go to the movies / concerts
- go hiking / camping / surfing
- read books / magazines
- listen to birds singing / to music

## 4. EXPRESSING LIKES AND DISLIKES WITH GERUNDS

- A. In pairs or as a class, students read the information about Gerunds. A gerund (pronounced JER-und) is a verb that is acting as a noun; the verb becomes a thing or activity. Answer any questions that arise. You may decide to review forming gerunds on the board and discuss.
- B. Individually, students complete the sentences with information from the dating profiles in Part 2A. Remind students of the changes to the verbs when using the third person he/she/it. Students can compare their sentences with a partner and discuss any differences or check answers as a class.
- Eva doesn't really like staying in one place.
  - Bruce loves listening to the birds.
  - Takashi really likes visiting the local markets.
  - Carlos likes visiting museums.
  - Helen likes going for walks around the city.

## 5. CONVERSATION

- A. Individually, students write sentences using gerunds and the information they wrote in Part 1A. Monitor and check sentences are correct as well as answer any questions students have.
- B. In pairs, students tell their partner the things they like and don't like doing. Encourage students to ask follow-up questions to continue the conversation. As an extended activity, students could present information they learned about their partners to the class.