

SPELLING OF VERBS WITH-ING

The following is a guide to the correct spelling of -ing forms of verbs and gerunds.

The general rule when changing a verb into its -ING form is just to add -ING to the end of the verb.

Infinitive	ING form
to feel	feeling
to go	going
to work	working
to sleep	sleeping

- She wasn't feeling very well.
- He is working on a new project.
- The children are sleeping so be quiet.

Spelling exceptions

The following exceptions exist when spelling words ending in ING:

1. If the verb ends in an E we remove the E and add ING.

Infinitive	ING form
to live	living
to have	having
to make	making
to take	taking

- People are living longer now than they were 100 years ago.
- We are making a chocolate cake.
- He was taking his time to get ready.

2. If the verb ends in a consonant + vowel + consonant, we double the final consonant and add ING.

Infinitive	ING form
to stop	stopping
to sit	sitting
to plan	planning
to get	getting
to swim	swimming

- The policeman is stopping the traffic.
- We are planning a surprise party for our teacher.
- I think I am getting a cold.

3. If a two-syllable verb ends in a consonant + vowel + consonant, we do not double the final consonant when the stress is on the first syllable.

Infinitive	ING form
to <u>h</u>appen	happening
to <u>e</u>nter	entering
to <u>o</u>ffer	offering
to <u>s</u>uffer	suffering

- What is happening?
 - They are offering a discount.
 - Many people are suffering from a lack of food and water.
- 

4. But we do not double the final consonant when the verb ends in W, X or Y or when the final syllable is not emphasized.

Infinitive	ING form
to fix	fixing
to enjoy	enjoying
to snow	snowing

- He is fixing his bike.
- We are enjoying this great weather.
- It's snowing outside.

Reference:

Woodward English (s.f.). Spelling Rules -ING. Retrieved from:
https://www.grammar.cl/Notes/Spelling_ING.htm

