



THE SUFFIXAL HOMOPHONES (-ING)

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(-ING)

(- ing vb)

Inflectional

(-ing nm)

derivational

(-ing adj)

derivational



1- (-ing vb)

- It is inflectional
- It is found in sentences with continuous tenses.

e.g. Alice is playing piano this evening.

I have been travelling the whole summer.

- It comes before nouns when this (-ing) form is not an adjective

e.g. I like that sitting child. (sitting cannot be an adjective as we cannot say “a very sitting child”, so the -ing is (-ing vb))

I like that amazing child. (amazing is an adjective because we can say “a very amazing child” so the -ing is (-ing adj))



2- (-ing nm)

- ❑ It is derivational
- ❑ It is added to verbs to change them into nouns
- ❑ It can be found in sentences in the position of nouns like in the subject position, object position, object of prepositions, etc.
- ❑ **Hiking** is good for mood and body health. (subject)
- ❑ You can improve your English **by reading** stories. (object of preposition (preposition + noun))
- ❑ One of the easiest ways to identify the (-ing) form as a noun is when it ends with (-s pl)
e.g. I like your **writings**.



3- (-ing adj)

- It is derivational
- It can be found in the adjective position (before a noun or after the verb (be) or after a linking verb (*seem, appear, look, become, taste,....*)

I talked about an interesting subject.

The party was amazing.

The bride becomes charming.



Ambiguous Cases (Case 1)

- **The first case of ambiguity is between the (-ing vb) and the(-ing nm).**
- When the (-ing) form occurs alone without (-s pl) or out of context, it is hard to recognize whether it is a verbal or a nominal (-ing), so the only way to know is to put it in context.
- e.g. **meeting** is ambiguous but
- **I have a meeting on Sunday.** (-ing nm) because it comes in the object position and preceded by (a)
- **I am meeting the school manager in the morning.** (-ing vb) because it comes in a continuous tense



Ambiguous Cases (Case 2)

- **The second case of ambiguity is between the (-ing vb) and (-ing adj).**
- This ambiguity happens when the (-ing) form comes before a noun which is the normal position of the adjective, however, it can also be verbal. e.g.
- **an amazing view**
- **a walking dead**
- In order to identify the (-ing) form as adjectival or verbal, we can apply two tests:
- **1- the (-ing adj) can be preceded by qualifiers like (very, rather, quite,.... more and most)**
- A very amazing view ✓
- A very walking dead X
- **2- the (-ing adj) can occur after the verb (seem)**
- The view seems amazing. ✓
- The dead seems walking. X

