

A Proficiency Course in English
with key

F. V. Bywater, M.A.



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HODDER AND STOUGHTON
LONDON SYDNEY AUCKLAND TORONTO

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Introduction

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1: The constructions with basic verbs A—C

An important principle of English construction is that most verbs are followed by the same preposition before an ordinary noun and before a gerundive noun. (For a detailed study of the gerund construction see Section 14, page 74.)

He insists on that course of action. (ordinary noun)

He insists on behaving so outrageously. (gerundive noun)

I praised the boy for his courage.

I praised the boy for acting so courageously.

She is quite used to English life.

She is quite used to living in England.

A lot of children are fond of music.

A lot of children are fond of singing and dancing.

That man saved me from an unpleasant death.

That man saved me from drowning.

If there is no preposition before an ordinary noun, there is no preposition before a gerundive noun either.

He denied all knowledge of it.

He denied stealing the money.

Hampton Court is well worth a visit.

Hampton Court is well worth taking the trouble to visit.

I hope you do not mind a salad for lunch.

I hope you do not mind having just a salad for lunch.

A number of very common verbs, however, have a lot of different prepositions and constructions after them, and this section (which is divided up to make it easier to digest) deals with some fifty of these basic verbs in alphabetical order. This basic principle of construction will be noticed in studying most of these verbs.

Advise

1. *I wouldn't advise that course of action.* (No preposition before an ordinary noun.)

2. *I wouldn't advise taking that course of action.* (No preposition before a gerundive noun.)

3. *I wouldn't advise you to take that course of action.* (If a personal object is inserted the gerund is replaced by the infinitive. As will be noted, *advise* is not the only verb with which this happens.)

4. *I wouldn't advise your taking that course of action.* (This is an alternative to 3, but less common. The possessive adjective is always used with the gerund when the person doing the gerund is different from the subject of the sentence. See Section 14, page 74.)