

1. Q: Scan the text in Reading A and pick out the sentences in which the *-ing* forms function as a subject and object to fill in the blanks.

- *-ing* form used as a subject:

Trying to keep a balance can be tricky and, depending on the situation, we often lean more towards one over the other.

Suffering is universal.

- *-ing* form used as an object:

For example, if you believe that a homeless man has caused his own misfortune and you are pretty sure he could have made better choices than he did, then you will probably lean towards not giving any money.

2. Q: How to use *-ing* form as subjects and objects?

- A) Complete the sentences with the *-ing* form of the verbs in the box.

drive, listen, open, find, speak, do

1. Doing morning exercises will do good to your health.
2. Driving a car in a snowstorm is dangerous.
3. Listening to music helps him relax.
4. Opening someone else's mail is not polite.
5. Finding an apartment that isn't too expensive is hard.
6. Speaking clearly and simply helps get your ideas across.

- B) Practice: Use the *-ing* form of the following verbs to complete the text.

make, join, read, live, learn, understand

Living in a foreign country can be quite a challenge. To begin with, making friends is often very difficult at first, and understanding the customs of the new country is at times almost impossible. Learning the language, and reading about the history and culture of the country can help with these problems, but they are not enough. Joining clubs and societies is a great way to meet people and to start to understand a new country.