



# ENGLISH GRAMMAR 2 INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Unit 57 – Verb + -ing or to ... 2  
(try, need, help)

*tienganh*



# Verb + -ing or to ... 2 (try, need, help)

## TRY TO ... AND TRY -ING

A

- ❖ **try to do = attempt to do, make an effort to do:**
  - EX1: I was very tired. I **tried to keep** my eyes open, but I couldn't.
  - EX2: Please **try to be** quiet when you come home. Everyone will be asleep.
- ❖ **try something or try doing something = do it as an experiment or test:**
  - EX3: These cakes are delicious. You should **try** one. (= have one to see if you like it)
  - EX4: We couldn't find anywhere to stay. We **tried** every hotel in the town, but they were all full. (= we went to every hotel to see if they had a room)
  - EX5: A: The photocopier doesn't seem to be working.  
B: **Try** pressing the green button. (= press the green button – perhaps this will help to solve the problem)
- ❖ **Compare:**
  - EX6: I **tried to move** the table, but it was too heavy. (so I couldn't move it)
  - EX7: I didn't like the way the furniture was arranged, so I **tried moving** the table to the other side of the room. But it didn't look right, so I moved it back again. (I tried moving it = I moved it to see if it looked better)

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## NEED TO ... AND NEED DOING

B

❖ I need to do something = it is necessary for me to do it

- EX8: He **needs to work** harder if he wants to make progress.
- EX9: I don't **need to come** to the meeting, do I?

❖ You can say that something needs -ing:

- EX10: My phone **needs charging**. (= it needs to be charged)
- EX11: Does your suit **need cleaning**? (= ... need to be cleaned)
- EX12: It's a difficult problem. It **needs thinking** about carefully. (= it needs to be thought about carefully)

Compare:

- EX13: I **need to charge** my phone.
- EX14: but My phone **needs charging**.

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## HELP AND CAN'T HELP

C

- ❖ You can say **help to do** or **help do** (with or without to):
  - EX15: Everybody helped to clean up after the party.  
Or Everybody helped clean up ...
  - EX16: Can you help me move this table?  
Or Can you help me to move ...
- ❖ I can't help doing something = I can't stop myself doing it:
  - EX17: I don't like him, but he has a lot of problems. I **can't help feeling** sorry for him.
  - EX18: She tried to be serious, but she **couldn't help laughing**.  
(= she couldn't stop herself laughing)
  - EX19: I'm sorry I'm so nervous. I **can't help it**. (= I can't help being nervous)



She **couldn't help laughing**.

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## BÀI TẬP NHANH

Put the verb into the correct form.

I was very tired. I tried \_\_\_\_\_ my eyes open, but I couldn't.

- A. to keep
- B. keep
- C. keeping
- D. to have kept

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## TÓM TẮT

1. **Try to do something** nghĩa là cố gắng, nỗ lực làm một việc gì đó - *Please try to be quiet when you come home. Everyone will be asleep.*
2. Còn **try doing something** là thử làm một việc gì đó - *Try pressing the green button.*
3. **I need to do something** nghĩa là tôi cần làm một việc gì đó, còn **needs doing something** nghĩa là chủ ngữ cần được làm cho một việc gì đó - *My phone needs charging.*
4. **Helped (to) do something** có nghĩa là giúp làm một việc gì đó, còn **can't help doing something** nghĩa là không thể ngưng mình (bản thân chủ ngữ) làm một việc gì đó - *She tried to be serious, but she couldn't help laughing.*