

Lesson Plan: Likes and dislikes

Level	Beginner / Intermediate (A2–B1)
Time	45–60 minutes
Skills	Grammar, speaking, vocabulary
Focus	Love, like, enjoy, don't mind, dislike, can't stand — gerunds and nouns; adverbs of degree

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Use a range of preference verbs accurately on a scale from love to hate
- Follow preference verbs correctly with nouns or gerunds (-ing forms)
- Ask about others' preferences and respond naturally
- Use adverbs to intensify or soften preferences

TARGET LANGUAGE & EXAMPLES

Preference verbs — positive to negative

- love — I love swimming. (very strong positive)
- really like / enjoy — I really like cooking. / I enjoy hiking.
- like — I like reading in bed.
- don't mind — I don't mind doing the dishes. (neutral — it's OK with me)
- dislike / don't like — I don't like getting up early.
- hate / can't stand / can't bear — I hate being late. / I can't stand waiting.

Grammar: + noun or + gerund (-ing)

- love + noun: I love jazz. / I love cats.
- love + -ing: I love playing jazz. / I love walking.
- enjoy + -ing ONLY (NOT infinitive): I enjoy cooking. NOT I enjoy to cook.
- don't mind + -ing: I don't mind waiting. NOT I don't mind to wait.

Asking about preferences

- What kind of music do you like? / Do you enjoy cooking?
- Are you into sports? / What are you into? (informal)
- What's your favourite type of film?

Meaning & Nuance

Verb	Feeling	Followed by	Common error
love	very strong positive	noun or -ing	—
enjoy	positive, active	only -ing (NOT infinitive)	I enjoy to cook. ✗
like	positive, general	noun or -ing	—
don't mind	neutral — it's OK	only -ing	I don't mind to wait. ✗

dislike	mild negative	noun or -ing	—
can't stand	strong negative	noun or -ing	—

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up: Agree or disagree? (5 min)

Task: Teacher reads statements. Students stand up if they agree.

- 'I love Mondays.' / 'I can't stand cold weather.' / 'I enjoy doing the housework.'

→ *Creates immediate engagement with the topic.*

2. Presentation (10 min)

Task: Introduce the preference scale from love to hate on the board.

- Critical point: enjoy and don't mind ONLY take -ing, never infinitive.
- Drill both patterns: I love coffee (noun). / I love drinking coffee (-ing).

3. Ranking activity (10 min)

Task: Students rank 8 activities from love to hate.

- Activities: cooking, exercising, commuting, watching sport, shopping, reading, meetings, waiting.
- Compare rankings in pairs: 'Really? I actually enjoy commuting — I listen to podcasts.'

4. Preference interview (15 min)

Task: Students interview each other using preference question prompts.

- Food, music, sport, travel, work, social activities.
- Report back: 'She loves hiking but can't stand cooking. He doesn't mind commuting.'

TEACHER NOTES

- Enjoy + -ing is one of the most frequently tested grammar points at A2-B1. High repetition in this lesson pays off.
- 'Don't mind' is a distinctly British understatement — it means 'I'm OK with it', not 'I don't care.'

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one or more:

1. Write a paragraph about your likes and dislikes in food, sport, and entertainment.
2. Interview a friend or family member about their preferences and write a short report.
3. Write 8 sentences using 4 different preference verbs, each followed by both a noun and a gerund.