

Try to do it, try doing it ★★☆☆

(★ = Basic ★★ = Intermediate ★★★ = Advanced)

Grammar Bite

(read this)

What's the difference?



He's trying to switch the light on.

(Can he reach?)

When you **try to do** something, you don't know if you can do it or not.

When you **try doing** something, you know you can do it, but you don't know if it will solve the problem.

"Try standing on a stool"

(That will do it!)

Worksheet

(do this)

Think about the meaning of these sentences, then insert one of the phrases

to open opening

1a The room was hot, so I tried _____ the door.

1b I tried _____ the door, but it was stuck.

to phone phoning

2a She tried _____ home, but the lines were down.

2b She tried _____ home, but her father still sounded angry.

to increase increasing

3a The government tried _____ taxes, but expenses kept rising.

3b The government tried _____ taxes, but Parliament rejected the proposal.

to cut cutting

4a He tried _____ the longest leg shorter, but the table still wobbled.

4b He tried _____ the longest leg, but the saw was blunt.

to put putting

5a "Try _____ some flowers on the table, it might cheer the place up."

5b Have you ever tried _____ an octopus in a box?

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