ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Gerunds and Infinitives Advanced Level MCQs Test With Answers 2

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Explanations

1. There is no point in _____ the washing out because it keeps _____.
✔ **B) hanging / showering**
After a preposition (**There is no point in**) we use the **-ing** form: **hanging**. The verb **keep**, meaning 'continue', is also followed by **-ing**: **it keeps showering** (it keeps raining briefly, again and again). Not **to hang / to shower**, because neither **in** nor **keep** takes an infinitive.

2. I dislike spending my time _____, so I prefer _____ clothes made from synthetic fabrics.
✔ **C) ironing / buying**
The pattern **spend (time) + -ing** requires **ironing**: **I spend hours ironing**. **Prefer** can take either **-ing** or **to**-infinitive, so **buying** is fine. Not **to iron / to buy**, because **spend time to iron** is incorrect.

3. Don't you think the assistant deserves _____ a day off after working so hard at the exhibition?
✔ **C) to be given**
Deserve is followed by a **to**-infinitive. Here the assistant receives the day off, so we need the passive infinitive **to be given**. Not **to give**, which would mean the assistant gives a day off to someone else.

4. In my opinion, it's ridiculous _____ a computer as a present for a three-year-old child.
✔ **E) to buy**
After **it's + adjective** (**it's ridiculous, it's important, it's easy**) we use a **to**-infinitive: **it's ridiculous to buy a computer for a three-year-old**.

5. I don't think I would enjoy _____ a cricket match as I don't understand the rules.
✔ **D) watching**
Enjoy is always followed by the **-ing** form: **enjoy watching**. Not **to watch**, because **enjoy** never takes a **to**-infinitive.

6. Because they both work at the family's flower shop, they have agreed _____ about flowers at weekends.
✔ **A) not to talk**
Agree is followed by a **to**-infinitive. The negative goes before **to**: **agree not to talk**. Not **not talking**, because **agree** does not take **-ing**.

7. _____ the old hospital would cost £1 million, so the council are considering _____ the building to developers.
✔ **A) Demolishing / selling**
A gerund is the natural subject of a sentence: **Demolishing the old hospital would cost £1 million**. **Consider** is followed by the **-ing** form: **considering selling**. Not **To demolish / to sell**: an infinitive subject is possible, but **consider to sell** is wrong.

8. Being able to think quickly and having up-to-date knowledge of a language is essential for speakers _____ simultaneously.
✔ **C) to translate**
The pattern is **essential for + person + to-infinitive**: **essential for speakers to translate**. The speakers do the translating, so an active infinitive is needed. Not **to be translated**, which would mean the speakers themselves are translated.

9. In order to save money and energy, we are going to have double-glazed windows _____.
✔ **D) installed**
The causative **have + object + past participle** means we arrange for someone else to do the job: **have windows installed**. Not **install** or **installing**, because the windows do not do the action themselves.

10. In his performance against Brazil, he proved himself _____ a skilled player.
✔ **E) to be**
The pattern **prove oneself + to be** means 'show by your actions that you are': **he proved himself to be a skilled player**. Not **being**: **prove** does not take **-ing** in this meaning.

11. After the game, the players sat around _____ themselves on their performance.
✔ **C) congratulating**
After verbs of position such as **sit, stand** and **lie**, an **-ing** form describes what someone is doing at the same time: **sat around congratulating themselves**. Not **being congratulated**, because the players congratulate themselves (active).

12. The photographs he took of the products were too dark _____ on the company's website, so he'll have to get some _____ professionally.
✔ **B) to be used / taken**
Too + adjective is followed by a **to**-infinitive. The photos would be used by someone, so the passive **to be used** fits. The causative **get + object + past participle** (**get some taken professionally**) means paying someone else to take them. Not **to use / taking**, because **get some taking** is wrong.

13. The director of the play still hasn't decided whom _____ in the role of the hero.
✔ **B) to cast**
After **decide** (and similar verbs), a question word is followed by a **to**-infinitive: **decide whom to cast, what to do, where to go**. Not **casting**, because a **wh**-word is never followed by **-ing** in this pattern.

14. Why don't you go and ask a chemist _____ something _____ dry skin?
✔ **D) to recommend / to soothe**
The pattern is **ask + person + to-infinitive**: **ask a chemist to recommend**. A **to**-infinitive after a noun can show its purpose: **something to soothe dry skin** (something that will soothe it). Not **recommend / soothing**, because **ask someone recommend** is wrong.

15. The problem with Simon is that he thinks he can succeed _____ a degree without _____ any lectures.
✔ **E) in gaining / attending**
Succeed takes the preposition **in** followed by **-ing**: **succeed in gaining**. After the preposition **without** we also use **-ing**: **without attending**. Not **gaining / having attended**, because **succeed** needs **in**.

16. We have decided _____ a new Ford Focus, but we are not certain about which colour _____.
✔ **E) to buy / to choose**
Decide is followed by a **to**-infinitive: **decided to buy**. A question word such as **which colour** is also followed by a **to**-infinitive: **which colour to choose**. Not **buying / choosing**, because **decide** does not take **-ing**.

17. Wearing high-heeled shoes for long periods can result in women _____ too much pain from their feet _____ in active work.
✔ **C) suffering / to continue**
Result in is followed by **(object) + -ing**: **result in women suffering**. The structure **too much + noun + to-infinitive** shows that something prevents an action: **too much pain to continue in active work**. Not **to suffer**, because a preposition (**in**) cannot be followed by a **to**-infinitive.

18. His daughter persuaded him _____ his heart operation in a private hospital instead of waiting for one in a state hospital as she could see his condition _____ worse daily.
✔ **A) to have / getting**
Persuade + person + to-infinitive: **persuaded him to have his operation**. After **see + object**, the **-ing** form describes an ongoing process: **see his condition getting worse**. Not **from having**: the pattern **persuade someone from** does not exist (we say **dissuade someone from**).

19. I knew the answer, but I didn't press the buzzer quickly enough _____ the prize.
✔ **B) to win**
Adjective/adverb + enough is followed by a **to**-infinitive: **quickly enough to win the prize**. Not **winning**, because **enough** takes a **to**-infinitive.

20. Robert didn't work as carefully last year as he does this year, and the boss had even threatened _____ him if he didn't improve his work.
✔ **D) to sack**
Threaten is followed by a **to**-infinitive: **threatened to sack him**. The boss does the sacking, so the infinitive is active. Not **to be sacked**, which would mean the boss himself was going to lose his job.

21. I'd love _____ on my own, but I simply can't afford _____ my own flat.
✔ **A) to live / to have**
Would love refers to a specific wish and takes a **to**-infinitive: **I'd love to live**. **Afford** is also followed by a **to**-infinitive: **can't afford to have**. Not **living / having**, because **afford** does not take **-ing**.

22. The receptionist never minds _____ with sending out the new catalogues.
✔ **E) helping**
Mind is always followed by the **-ing** form: **never minds helping**. Not **to help**, because **mind** never takes a **to**-infinitive.

23. The manager likes _____ on all pricing decisions.
✔ **D) being consulted**
The manager is the person asked for an opinion, so we need a passive form: **likes being consulted**. Not **to have consulted** or **having consulted**: these are active and mean the manager consults other people.

24. I am hoping _____ for the school basketball team next week.
✔ **B) to be picked**
Hope is followed by a **to**-infinitive. The speaker will be chosen by someone else, so the passive **to be picked** is needed. Not **to pick**, which would mean the speaker chooses the team.

25. Your hair needs _____ before you go back to school.
✔ **C) cutting**
Need + -ing has a passive meaning: **Your hair needs cutting** = **Your hair needs to be cut**. Not **to cut**, because the hair cannot cut anything. The passive infinitive **to be cut** would also be correct, but it is not an option here.

26. The social worker gave the students a talk _____ them against _____ drugs.
✔ **A) to warn / taking**
A **to**-infinitive after a noun can show purpose: **gave a talk to warn them**. The preposition **against** is followed by **-ing**: **warn against taking drugs**. Not **warning / taken**, because **against taken** is wrong.

27. He's not in the habit _____ lies, but he had to make up an excuse _____ the afternoon off for his job interview.
✔ **A) of telling / to take**
The fixed phrase is **be in the habit of + -ing**: **in the habit of telling lies**. A **to**-infinitive after a noun shows purpose: **an excuse to take the afternoon off**. Not **for telling**, because **habit** takes the preposition **of**.

28. In the Middle Ages, surrounding a castle with a ditch filled with water proved _____ a successful technique _____ its security.
✔ E) to be / for ensuring
Prove (meaning 'turn out') is followed by **to be**: **proved to be a successful technique**. **Technique for + -ing** expresses purpose: **a technique for ensuring its security**. Not **having been / of ensuring**, because **prove** does not take **-ing** in this meaning.

29. The most effective way _____ the destructiveness of earthquakes is _____ buildings and other structures capable of withstanding strong shaking.
✔ D) to reduce / to construct
The way + to-infinitive is a common pattern: **the most effective way to reduce**. After **is**, a **to**-infinitive can explain what the way is: **is to construct buildings**. Not **to be reduced / constructing**: the way does not get reduced; it reduces the damage.

30. The children were _____ giving up hope when someone phoned to say their dog had been found.
✔ C) on the point of
Be on the point of + -ing means 'be just about to do something': **They were on the point of giving up when the phone rang.** Not **in the habit of**, which describes a repeated action, not something about to happen once.

31. _____ a doorman at a hotel consists _____ greeting guests and taking them to their rooms.
✔ C) Being / of
A gerund is the usual subject of a sentence describing an activity or job: **Being a doorman**. **Consist** is followed by **of** to list the parts of something: **consists of greeting guests and taking them to their rooms**. Not **for**, **about** or **from**: these are not used after **consist**.

32. She should have apologized to him _____ spilling coffee down his suit.
✔ D) for
The pattern is **apologize to someone for + -ing**: **apologized for spilling coffee**. Not **about** or **of**: **apologize** takes the preposition **for**.

33. Sheep have been so changed by breeding that their wild ancestors are hard _____.
✔ C) to identify
After **adjective** constructions such as **hard, easy, difficult**, we use an active **to**-infinitive even though the meaning is passive: **their ancestors are hard to identify** (= it is hard to identify them). Not **being identified**: the active infinitive is used in this pattern.

34. Shopping for fruit and vegetables makes me _____ hungry.
✔ B) feel
Make + object is followed by the bare infinitive (without **to**): **makes me feel hungry**. Not **to feel**: **to** is used only in the passive (**I was made to feel**).

35. We haven't yet decided when _____ a meeting, so we'll let you _____ as soon as we've fixed a date.
✔ A) to hold / know
A question word after **decide** is followed by a **to**-infinitive: **decided when to hold a meeting**. **Let + object** takes the bare infinitive: **let you know**. Not **holding / to know**, because **let you to know** is wrong.

36. Tobacco, which we now know _____ so harmful, was once thought _____ medicinal value.
✔ E) to be / to have
Know and **think** in the patterns **know/be thought + to-infinitive** express beliefs: **which we know to be harmful**, **was thought to have medicinal value**. Present infinitives are used because the state (being harmful, having value) is at the same time as the knowing/thinking. Not **to have been / having**, because **was thought having** is wrong.

37. His ability _____ well makes him a great teacher.
✔ D) to communicate
The noun **ability** is followed by a **to**-infinitive: **his ability to communicate**. Not **communicating**: we say **ability to do**, not **ability doing**.

38. We should appreciate _____ in the 21st century when we have so many appliances _____ the hardships of our lives.
✔ C) living / to ease
Appreciate is followed by the **-ing** form: **appreciate living**. A **to**-infinitive after a noun shows purpose: **appliances to ease the hardships** (appliances that ease them). Not **to be living / easing**, because **appreciate** does not take a **to**-infinitive.

39. You don't appear _____ the formula. Do you want me _____ it once more?
✔ C) to have understood / to explain
Appear takes a **to**-infinitive. The perfect infinitive **to have understood** refers to an earlier action (the explanation happened before now). **Want + object + to-infinitive**: **want me to explain**. Not **understand / to have explained**, because **appear understand** is wrong.

40. My mother won't allow anyone _____ the living room until she finishes _____.
✔ B) to enter / vacuuming
Allow + person + to-infinitive: **won't allow anyone to enter**. **Finish** is always followed by **-ing**: **finishes vacuuming**. Not **enter / to vacuum**, because **finish** does not take a **to**-infinitive.