ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Gerunds and Infinitives Advanced Level MCQs Test With Answers 3

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Explanations

1. That’s strange. I saw him _____ his bike along the river this morning and he didn’t mention anything about _____ his job.
✔ **A) riding / changing**
See + object + -ing (**saw him riding**) describes an action in progress that we watched part of. After a preposition such as **about** we always use the gerund: **about changing his job**. Not **ride / to have changed**: **saw him ride** is possible, but **about to have changed** is wrong after a preposition.

2. I imagine Sally was about _____ when I asked her _____ a letter for me, as she looked rather reluctant.
✔ **C) to leave / to type**
Be about to + infinitive means 'be just going to do something': **was about to leave**. **Ask somebody + to-infinitive** is used for requests: **asked her to type a letter**. Not **to be leaving / typing**, because **ask her typing** is wrong.

3. Don’t you think we should consider _____ the chimney _____ before the winter?
✔ **E) getting / swept**
Consider is followed by a gerund: **consider getting**. **Get + object + past participle** is the causative, meaning we arrange for someone else to do it: **get the chimney swept**. Not **to get / being swept**, because **consider to get** is wrong.

4. In an emergency, even a child can save a life if he or she knows what _____.
✔ **A) to do**
A question word + to-infinitive (**what to do, how to start, where to go**) expresses what someone should do. **Knows what to do** means 'knows the right action to take'.

5. Knowledge of nutrition helps you _____ proper eating habits _____ a healthy life.
✔ **D) develop / to maintain**
Help + object can be followed by the bare infinitive (or the to-infinitive): **helps you develop**. The second gap expresses purpose, so we use the to-infinitive: **to maintain a healthy life** ('in order to maintain'). Not **developing / maintaining**: **help you developing** is wrong.

6. Mankind first used indestructible materials to erect large structures _____ in but _____ their gods from.
✔ **D) not to live / to worship**
The to-infinitive expresses purpose, and **not** goes before **to** to make it negative: **structures not to live in but to worship their gods from**. The prepositions **in** and **from** stay at the end, as in **a house to live in**. Not **without living / being worshipped**, because these forms do not express purpose and the gods are not worshipped from the structures.

7. I tried _____ careful _____ his feelings.
✔ **B) to be / not to hurt**
Try + to-infinitive means 'make an effort': **I tried to be careful**. **Careful** is followed by a to-infinitive, and its negative is **careful not to + verb**: **careful not to hurt his feelings**. Not **being / not hurting**: **try being** means 'experiment with', and **careful not hurting** is wrong.

8. _____ at the details of the famous sculptor Rodin’s works, we can see his ability _____ feeling through facial expression and through hands.
✔ **B) By looking / to convey**
By + -ing shows the method or means: **By looking at the details, we can see…**. The noun **ability** is followed by a to-infinitive: **his ability to convey feeling**. Not **Having looked / convey**, because **ability convey** is wrong.

9. Ludlow is considered _____ the most beautiful mediaeval street in England. Do you fancy _____ there for sightseeing tonight?
✔ **C) to have / going**
The passive reporting structure **be considered + to-infinitive** is used here: **Ludlow is considered to have…**. **Fancy** ('want to do') is followed by a gerund: **Do you fancy going there?** Not **having / to go**, because **fancy to go** is wrong.

10. The singer Mick Hucknall has decided _____ a two-year break, but he won’t have any money problems. He has already made enough money _____ a lifetime.
✔ **A) to take / to last**
Decide is followed by a to-infinitive: **decided to take** a break. **Enough** + noun + to-infinitive shows what something is sufficient for: **enough money to last** a lifetime. Not **taking / lasting**, because **decide taking** is wrong.

11. Remember _____ off the washing machine before you leave home, will you?
✓ **E) to switch**
Remember + to-infinitive is used for something you must not forget to do in the future: **Remember to switch off the washing machine**. Not **switching**: **remember switching** means you have a memory of doing it in the past.

12. Both sides seem _____ on to their determination _____ a peaceful solution, don't they?
✓ **B) to be holding / to find**
Seem + continuous infinitive (**to be + -ing**) describes something happening at the moment: **seem to be holding on to**. The noun **determination** is followed by a to-infinitive: **determination to find a solution**. Not **to be held / finding**: the passive does not fit, because the two sides are doing the holding.

13. It is sometimes difficult for parents _____ whether _____ their children for misbehaving.
✓ **A) to decide / to punish**
It is difficult for someone + to-infinitive: **difficult for parents to decide**. **Whether** can be followed by a to-infinitive, like the question words: **whether to punish them**. Not **deciding / to be punishing**, because **difficult for parents deciding** is wrong.

14. A: Did you have difficulty _____ our office? B: No, it was quite easy _____ here.
✓ **C) finding / to get**
Have difficulty is followed by the -ing form: **have difficulty finding**. **It is + adjective + to-infinitive**: **it was quite easy to get here**. Not **to find / to have got**, because **difficulty to find** is wrong.

15. I never seem _____ enough time _____ everything I want.
✓ **D) to have / to do**
Seem is followed by a to-infinitive: **never seem to have**. **Enough time + to-infinitive** shows what the time is needed for: **enough time to do everything**. Not **to be having / done**: **have** meaning 'possess' is not normally used in the continuous form.

16. A talented actress like Tracy shouldn't be wasting her talent _____ in a soap opera.
✓ **A) acting**
Waste + time/money/talent + -ing shows what the resource is used for: **wasting her talent acting in a soap opera**. Similarly: **spend time**, **waste money doing something**. Not **to act**: **waste** is not followed by a to-infinitive.

17. Money motivates most people _____ hard, even though it may cause them _____ a lot of stress.
✓ **C) to work / to undergo**
Motivate somebody + to-infinitive and **cause somebody + to-infinitive** follow the same pattern: **motivates people to work hard**, **cause them to undergo stress**. Not **working / undergoing**: neither verb is followed by object + -ing.

18. She caught her son and his friend _____ computer games when they were supposed _____ an assignment for school.
✓ **B) playing / to be preparing**
Catch somebody + -ing means to discover someone in the middle of doing something wrong: **caught her son playing**. **Be supposed + continuous infinitive** refers to what they should have been doing at that moment: **supposed to be preparing**. Not **played / to prepare**, because **caught her son played** is wrong.

19. I was against my daughter _____ to a late-night party, but she got permission in the end because she really knows how _____ people.
✓ **D) going / to persuade**
The preposition **against** is followed by an object + -ing form: **against my daughter going**. **Know how + to-infinitive**: **knows how to persuade people**. Not **to go / to be persuading**: a preposition is never followed by a to-infinitive.

20. The actor is believed _____ the TV drama because of an illness.
✓ **A) to have left**
In the passive reporting structure **is believed + to-infinitive**, the perfect infinitive (**to have + past participle**) is used for an action earlier than the believing: **is believed to have left**. Not **to be left**: that is passive and would mean someone left the actor.

21. As trainees, we spent several days _____ to presentations and lectures about how _____ the product.
✓ **D) listening / to sell**
Spend time + -ing: **spent several days listening**. **How + to-infinitive**: **how to sell the product**. Not **having listened / sell**, because **how sell** is wrong.

22. Her lifelong wish _____ the country of her parents came true when she visited Ukraine last month.
✓ **D) to visit**
Nouns such as **wish**, **desire**, **plan** and **decision** are followed by a to-infinitive: **her lifelong wish to visit**. Not **visiting**: **wish** takes the infinitive, not the -ing form.

23. Before offering you the position, we need _____ if you are prepared _____ evenings and weekends when it is necessary.
✓ **C) to know / to work**
Need + to-infinitive is used when the subject must do something: **we need to know**. **Be prepared + to-infinitive** means 'be willing': **prepared to work evenings**. Not **knowing / working**: **need + -ing** has a passive meaning (**the car needs washing**).

24. We had arranged _____ after work on Friday _____ our holiday plans.
✓ **A) to meet / to discuss**
Arrange is followed by a to-infinitive: **had arranged to meet**. The second gap shows purpose, so it is also a to-infinitive: **to discuss our holiday plans**. Not **to meet / discussing**: the -ing form does not express purpose here.

25. The florist was nervous about the wedding order _____ account _____ the customer being very hard to please.
✓ A) on / of
On account of means 'because of' and works like a preposition, so it is followed by a noun or an -ing form: **on account of the customer being very hard to please**. The other combinations are not fixed phrases.

26. If I were you, I would forget _____ getting promoted there and look for a more rewarding job somewhere else.
✓ B) about
Forget about + -ing means 'stop thinking about or hoping for something': **forget about getting promoted**. The second verb, **look for**, goes with **would**: **I would… look for another job**. Not **of**: **forget of** is not used in English.

27. If you insist _____ having all this paperwork completed, how do you expect your staff _____ any time with customers?
✓ B) on / to spend
Insist on + -ing: **insist on having the paperwork completed**. **Expect somebody + to-infinitive**: **expect your staff to spend time**. Not **of / spending**: the preposition after **insist** is **on**.

28. The manager wants us to concentrate _____ gaining new business and says that the head office will take care _____ looking after existing customers.
✓ C) on / of
The fixed prepositions are **concentrate on** and **take care of**, and both are followed by the -ing form: **concentrate on gaining new business**, **take care of looking after customers**.

29. We've urged him _____ for the promotion, but he won't as he is afraid of _____.
✓ A) to apply / being rejected
Urge somebody + to-infinitive: **urged him to apply**. **Afraid of** is followed by an -ing form, here passive because he is the one who might be rejected: **afraid of being rejected**. Not **for applying / rejecting**: **rejecting** would mean he rejects others.

30. The first American woman _____ as a foreign correspondent was Margaret Fuller, who was also a social reformer, critic and teacher whose words enriched the lives of many people.
✓ D) to serve
After **the first / the last / the only** + noun, we use a to-infinitive instead of a relative clause: **the first woman to serve** = **the first woman who served**. Not **being served**: it is passive and an -ing form, and neither fits after **the first**.

31. The minister for defence thanked the soldiers _____ carrying out their mission successfully.
✓ E) for
Thank somebody for + -ing/noun gives the reason for the thanks: **thanked the soldiers for carrying out their mission**. The other prepositions are not used with **thank** in this sense.

32. If she hadn't devoted herself _____ teaching her autistic son, she probably would have been a scientist.
✓ A) to
Devote oneself to + -ing/noun means 'give all your time and energy to something': **devoted herself to teaching her son**. Here **to** is a preposition, so it is followed by the -ing form, not the base verb.

33. In the article, the environmentalists warned consumers _____ purchasing genetically modified produce.
✓ B) against
Warn somebody against + -ing means 'advise someone not to do something': **warned consumers against purchasing GM produce**. Not **of**: **warn of** is followed by the danger itself (**warn of the risks**), not by the action to avoid.

34. When I was a child, I would often _____ of living in a motor home and travelling around the world.
✓ B) dream
Dream of + -ing means 'imagine something you would like to happen': **dream of living in a motor home**. Not **imagine**: it takes the -ing form directly, without **of** (**imagine living**).

35. I _____ to having to clear up somebody else's mess.
✓ C) object
Only **object** is followed by **to + -ing**: **I object to having to clear up**. In **object to**, the word **to** is a preposition. **Mind**, **dislike** and **can't stand** take the -ing form directly, without **to**, and **complain** takes **about**.

36. After the recent floods, the Foreign Office has _____ people against going to the region for any reason.
✓ D) warned
Warn somebody against + -ing means 'strongly advise someone not to do something': **has warned people against going to the region**. Not **deterred**: the pattern is **deter somebody from + -ing**, not **against**.

37. They _____ him in Spain for stealing cars in England.
✓ E) arrested
Arrest somebody for + -ing/noun gives the reason for the arrest: **arrested him for stealing cars**. Not **accused** or **suspected**: these take **of** (**accused him of stealing**), not **for**.

38. The airline _____ to me for losing my luggage, but I wasn't in the right frame of mind to forgive them.
✓ E) apologized
Apologize to somebody for + -ing means 'say sorry': **apologized to me for losing my luggage**. Not **excused**: **excuse** has no **to me** pattern, and it means 'forgive', not 'say sorry'.

39. I was _____ from buying a house in that area by the high crime rate.
✓ A) deterred
Deter somebody from + -ing means 'make someone decide not to do something': **I was deterred from buying a house by the high crime rate**. Not **advised**: the pattern would be **advised against buying**, not **from**.

40. Because of the protests from the local residents, the farmers _____ not to participate in growing genetically modified crops.
✓ C) decided
Decide is followed by a to-infinitive, and the negative is **decide not to + verb**: **decided not to participate**. Not **considered**: **consider** takes the -ing form (**considered not participating**).