ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Gerunds and Infinitives Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 1

Gerunds and Infinitives Tests · 25 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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Explanations

1. By _____ 1,500,000 tons of insects a year, birds greatly help American farming.
✔ **B) eating**
After a preposition such as **by**, we use the **-ing** form (gerund): **by eating**. **By + -ing** shows how something is done. Not **having eaten**: the perfect gerund stresses an action finished earlier, but this sentence describes a regular habit (**a year**).

2. Betty’s favourite rainy-day pastime is _____ pictures from old newspapers and magazines.
✔ **A) to clip**
After **be**, an infinitive (or a gerund) can name what the subject is: **Her pastime is to clip pictures.** The active form is needed because Betty does the clipping herself. Not **to be clipped**: that passive would mean someone clips her.

3. President Roosevelt asked Archibald MacLeish _____ as the Librarian of Congress.
✔ **C) to serve**
The pattern is **ask + object + to-infinitive**: **asked Archibald MacLeish to serve**. MacLeish does the serving, so the active form is correct. Not **to be served**, which is passive and changes the meaning.

4. I’m sorry for _____ your new watch. Will you forgive me?
✔ **A) breaking**
After a preposition such as **for**, use the gerund: **sorry for breaking**. Not **to break**: a to-infinitive cannot follow a preposition.

5. The company needs someone _____ a programming supervisor.
✔ **E) to be**
Need + object + to-infinitive says what we want someone to do: **needs someone to be a supervisor**. Not **being**: **someone being a supervisor** would describe a person who already holds the job, not the job the company wants filled.

6. If you happen _____ the prize, what will you do?
✔ **D) to win**
Happen is followed by a to-infinitive: **happen to win**. It means 'by chance'. Not **win**: **happen** needs **to** before the next verb.

7. I know why you can't read that sign; it is because of your eyes. I think they need _____.
✔ **B) testing**
Need + -ing has a passive meaning: **they need testing** = **they need to be tested**. Not **to test**: that would mean the eyes have to test something. Not **to have them tested**: **them** repeats **they** (the eyes), so it makes no sense.

8. The Nusret used _____ a warship in the First World War.
✔ **D) to be**
Used to + base form describes a past state that is no longer true: **The Nusret used to be a warship.** Not **to being**: that form belongs to **be used to + -ing** ('be accustomed to'), which needs **was** and has a different meaning.

9. It can be difficult _____ a jogging partner.
✔ **C) to find**
After **It is + adjective**, we normally use a to-infinitive: **It can be difficult to find a partner. It** stands for the infinitive phrase that comes later. Not **to finding**: **to** is not a preposition here, so it cannot take **-ing**.

10. He enjoys _____ tennis and keeps on _____ sensibly; that’s why he is fit.
✔ **D) playing / eating**
Both **enjoy** and **keep on** are followed by the gerund: **enjoys playing**, **keeps on eating**. Not **playing / to eat**: **keep on** never takes a to-infinitive.

11. He is learning _____ football these days.
✔ **E) to play**
Learn is followed by a to-infinitive when it means gaining a skill: **learning to play football**. Not **playing**: **learn** doesn't take a gerund in this pattern.

12. The turtle, at last, gave up by _____ his feet under his shell.
✔ **D) pulling**
After the preposition **by**, use the gerund: **by pulling**. It shows how the turtle gave up. Not **to pull**: an infinitive cannot follow a preposition.

13. I did not plan _____ so much money on my vacation.
✔ **B) to spend**
Plan is followed by a to-infinitive: **plan to spend**. Not **spending**: **plan** does not take a gerund here.

14. He advised me _____ for the interview at home.
✓ **A) to practise**
The pattern is **advise + object + to-infinitive**: **advised me to practise**. Advise takes a gerund only when there is no object (**He advised practising**). Not **practising**, because there is an object, **me**.

15. I am going to explain why I decided _____ to college.
✓ **A) to go**
Decide is followed by a to-infinitive: **decided to go**. Not **going**: **decide** doesn't take a gerund.

16. After a while, we began _____ _____ the ball back and forth.
✓ **D) to enjoy / hitting**
Begin can take a to-infinitive, but **enjoy** always takes a gerund: **began to enjoy hitting**. Writers also avoid two **-ing** forms side by side, so **to enjoy** is preferred after **began**. Not **enjoying / to hit**: **enjoy** is never followed by a to-infinitive.

17. I have just quit _____ to the bookstore entirely because he made me _____ so angry and embarrassed.
✓ **A) going / feel**
Quit (meaning 'stop') takes a gerund: **quit going**. **Make + object** takes the base form without **to**: **made me feel**. Not **going / to feel**: in the active voice **make** is never followed by **to**.

18. It's difficult to live with them without _____.
✓ **D) being hurt**
After the preposition **without**, use a gerund. Here the meaning is passive (they might hurt you), so we need the passive gerund **being hurt**. Not **to be hurt**: an infinitive cannot follow a preposition.

19. She was very upset _____ that all the places in the restaurant _____.
✓ **A) to hear / were booked**
Adjectives of feeling such as **upset** are followed by a to-infinitive: **upset to hear**. The places receive the action, so we need the passive **were booked**, which matches the past **was**. Not **to hear / were booking**: that is active and would mean the places were booking something.

20. A child who is unhappy about _____ badly will normally get over that in a couple of days.
✓ **A) being treated**
After the preposition **about**, use a gerund. The child receives the action, so we need the passive gerund **being treated**. Not **treating**: that would mean the child treats others badly.

21. Following the 1990 census, the districts needed _____ due to the population shift in the country.
✓ **C) to be redrawn**
Need takes a to-infinitive. When the subject receives the action, we use the passive infinitive: **the districts needed to be redrawn**. (**needed redrawing** would also work, but it isn't an option.) Not **being redrawn**: **need** does not take a passive gerund.

22. He asked me _____ my eyes on the ball at all times.
✓ **B) to keep**
The pattern is **ask + object + to-infinitive**: **asked me to keep**. Not **keep**: **ask** needs **to** before the verb.

23. It is necessary in every case _____ in a specific way the essence of what is going on, and that is a philosophical act.
✓ **A) to understand**
In the pattern **It is + adjective (+ phrase) + to-infinitive**, **it** stands for the infinitive clause: **It is necessary... to understand**. The simple infinitive is used for a general requirement. Not **to have understood**: the perfect infinitive would refer to an earlier, completed action, which doesn't fit a general statement.

24. One of the best places _____ the costumed, guitar-playing bands there is Plaza Garibaldi.
✓ **A) to hear**
After a noun such as **places**, a to-infinitive can show purpose: **the best places to hear the bands**. Visitors do the hearing, so the active form is correct. Not **to be heard**: the bands are the object, so a passive infinitive doesn't fit.

25. The Children's Museum of Indianapolis is an interactive children's museum that takes a whole day _____.
✓ **B) to explore**
The pattern is **It takes + time + to-infinitive**: **takes a whole day to explore**. Here **that** (the museum) is the object of **explore**, but the active infinitive is still used. Not **to have been explored**: this pattern doesn't use a perfect passive form.

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