ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Gerunds and Infinitives Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 2

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

1. Researchers found that a pocket near the top of the brain stem may be key in _____ whether someone is likely _____ in compulsive behaviour or become hooked on drugs.
✔ **D) determining / to engage**
In is a preposition, so the verb after it must be a gerund: **key in determining**. The adjective **likely** is followed by a to-infinitive: **likely to engage** (parallel with **become hooked**). Not **to determine**, because a preposition is never followed by a to-infinitive.

2. The adverts on the internet have made it possible for many performers _____ their work on their own.
✔ **C) to produce**
The pattern is **make it possible for someone to do something**. The performers do the action themselves, so the infinitive is active: **to produce**. Not **to be produced**, because **their work** is the object of an active verb.

3. It could be an ill food worker or just an ill person who happens _____ the same living space as you.
✔ **C) to share**
Happen is followed by a to-infinitive when it means 'do something by chance': **who happens to share the same living space**. Not **sharing**, because **happen** does not take a gerund in this meaning.

4. It is often difficult _____ the difference between feeling gloomy and having a depressive illness.
✔ **D) to tell**
After **It is + adjective** we normally use a to-infinitive: **It is difficult to tell the difference**. **Tell the difference** is a fixed collocation meaning 'see how two things differ'. Not **to be told**, because a person does the telling, so the active form is needed.

5. A lawyer like her is too valuable _____ her time on years of research.
✔ **A) to spend**
The pattern is **too + adjective + to-infinitive**: she is **too valuable to spend her time** on research, so she should not do it. The verb has an object (**her time**), so it must be active. Not **to be spent**, because a passive infinitive cannot be followed by the object **her time**.

6. Field's lawyers spent dozens of hours mostly _____ the question of infection in depositions with the physician.
✔ **B) pursuing**
The pattern is **spend time + -ing**: **spent dozens of hours pursuing the question**. The adverb **mostly** does not change this. Not **to pursue**, because **spend time** is not followed by a to-infinitive.

7. Childhood obesity in the U.S. appears _____ girls to reach puberty at an earlier age.
✔ **A) to be causing**
Appear is followed by a to-infinitive. The continuous infinitive **to be causing** shows a process that is happening now, and obesity is the cause, so the form is active: **appears to be causing girls to reach puberty earlier**. Not **to be caused**, because the object **girls** follows, so a passive cannot fit.

8. It is the first organization of its kind in the region _____ a full spectrum of policy research on _____ challenges facing the three states.
✔ **E) to conduct / pressing**
After **the first (+ noun)** we use a to-infinitive: **the first organization ... to conduct**. In the second gap **pressing** is an adjective meaning 'urgent': **pressing challenges**. Not **to be conducted**, because the organization does the research, so the active form is needed.

9. She was the first American woman _____ this prize.
✔ **A) to win**
After ordinals and **the first/last/only** we use a to-infinitive: **the first American woman to win this prize**. Not **winning**, because **the first** is followed by a to-infinitive, not an -ing form.

10. Mark has promised _____ direct air links with China as part of a comprehensive plan _____ closer trade and economic ties.
✔ **E) to open / to build**
Promise is followed by a to-infinitive: **promised to open**. A to-infinitive after a noun can show purpose: **a plan to build closer ties**. Not **opening**, because **promise** does not take a gerund.

11. BP recently announced that it plans _____ its investment in alternative and renewable energies _____ a new low-carbon power business.
✔ **E) to double / to create**
Plan is followed by a to-infinitive: **plans to double its investment**. The second to-infinitive shows purpose: doubling the investment is done **to create** a new business. Not **creating**, because an -ing form here does not show the purpose.

12. The three candidates all had their opportunity _____ the importance of their particular policy proposal on healthcare.
✔ **E) to restate**
The noun **opportunity** is usually followed by a to-infinitive: **had their opportunity to restate**. The candidates do the action, so the infinitive is active. Not **to be restated**, because **the importance** is the object of the verb, so a passive cannot fit.

13. The device was the most important navigation instrument _____ in the last millennium.
✔ **A) to be invented**
After a superlative (**the most important ... instrument**) we use a to-infinitive. The instrument did not invent anything; it was invented, so the passive **to be invented** is needed. Not **to have invented**, because that form is active.

14. None of her relatives understood her _____ a promising career _____ in a civil rights movement.
✔ **D) leaving / to participate**
Understand can take a possessive or object plus a gerund: **understood her leaving a promising career**. The to-infinitive then shows purpose: she left **to participate** in the movement. Not **to leave**, because **understand someone** is not followed by a to-infinitive here.

15. Earth's shadow will completely block the face of the moon from _____ the sun's light for one hour and 13 minutes on March 3.
✔ **B) reflecting**
The pattern is **block/stop/prevent something from + -ing**: **block the moon from reflecting the sun's light**. The moon does the reflecting, so the active gerund is needed. Not **being reflected**, because **the sun's light** is its object.

16. The Spanish were among the first Europeans _____ the New World and _____ in what is now the United States.
✔ **D) to explore / to settle**
After **among the first (Europeans)** we use a to-infinitive, and both verbs joined by **and** keep the same form: **the first Europeans to explore ... and to settle**. Not **to have explored / settling**, because the two verbs after **and** must be parallel.

17. The secretary hired a few days ago seems _____ difficulty _____ with the typewriter she has been given.
✔ **A) to be having / coping**
Seem takes a to-infinitive. The continuous form **to be having** describes a situation happening now. **Have difficulty** is followed by an -ing form: **having difficulty coping with**. Not **to have had / coped**, because **have difficulty** is never followed by a past form.

18. With 70 per cent of parents calling for the students _____ home early, the head teacher said he preferred to wait until the school had a new heating system _____.
✔ **B) to be brought / installed**
Call for someone/something to do takes a to-infinitive. The students do not bring anyone; someone brings them, so the passive **to be brought** is needed. The second gap is the causative **have something done**: **had a new heating system installed** (someone installs it for the school). Not **to bring / install**, because both actions are done to the students and the heating system, not by them.

19. Security guards stopped 44 students on Wednesday as they tried _____ across the campus in protest over a proposed rule that _____ free parking for students, an official said.
✔ **C) to march / would block**
Try meaning 'make an effort' takes a to-infinitive: **tried to march**. The rule is only **proposed**, so **would** shows its future result seen from the past: **a rule that would block free parking**. Not **will be blocked**, because the rule does the blocking (active) and the sentence is in the past.

20. I watch him _____ around and _____ away.
✔ **E) turn / walk**
Verbs of perception like **watch**, **see** and **hear** are followed by object + bare infinitive to describe a complete action: **I watch him turn around and walk away**. Not **to turn / to walk**, because perception verbs are not followed by a to-infinitive in the active.

21. Bill had the janitor _____ the door and _____.
✔ **B) open / entered**
The causative **have someone do something** takes a bare infinitive: **had the janitor open the door**. The second verb goes with **Bill**, in the past simple: **and entered**. Not **opened**, because **have + person** needs the base form; **have + thing + past participle** is a different pattern.

22. The finding could help prevent addiction by _____ those predisposed to such behaviour and could also lead to new ways _____ it.
✔ **E) predicting / to treat**
By is a preposition showing the method, so it takes a gerund: **by predicting those predisposed**. The noun **ways** is followed by a to-infinitive here: **new ways to treat it**. Not **to predict**, because a preposition cannot be followed by a to-infinitive.

23. The poet was caught _____ his sermons from other deists and fled the country.
✔ **C) plagiarizing**
The passive **be caught + -ing** means someone was discovered while doing something wrong: **was caught plagiarizing**. To **plagiarize** means to copy someone else's work and pretend it is your own. Not **to be plagiarizing**, because **be caught** is followed by an -ing form.

24. Educational practices should strive _____ the catastrophe of nuclear warfare by _____ a sense of the reality and accessibility of peace.
✔ **D) to avert / communicating**
Strive (try very hard) is followed by a to-infinitive: **strive to avert the catastrophe**. To **avert** means to prevent. After the preposition **by** we need an active gerund with an object: **by communicating a sense of ...**. Not **being communicated**, because a passive gerund cannot take the object **a sense**.

25. An understanding of psychosurgery will help neurosurgeons _____ the ethical and technical challenges that are sure _____ ahead as modern science continues to unlock the secrets of the mind and brain.
✔ **D) face / to lie**
Help someone can be followed by a bare infinitive (or a to-infinitive): **help neurosurgeons face**. **Be sure** meaning 'certain to happen' takes a to-infinitive: **challenges that are sure to lie ahead**. Not **face / being lain**, because **sure** needs a to-infinitive, and **lie** (be in a place) has no passive.