ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Gerunds and Infinitives Test 1

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11	**B**	12	**C**	13	**D**	14	**E**	15	**A**	16	**C**	17	**B**						

Explanations

1. The teacher told us _____ the road when the lights were red.
✔ **B) not to cross**
After **tell someone** we use the to-infinitive, so **told us to cross**. For a negative order, put **not** before **to**: **told us not to cross**. Not **not to have crossed**, because the order is about a simple action, not an earlier one.

2. Most people talk too much and don't realise how important _____ is.
✔ **D) listening**
The gap is the subject of **is**, so we need a noun-like form. The gerund **listening** works as a noun here: **how important listening is**. Forms like **have to listen** or **to be listening** cannot act as this subject.

3. The medical authorities warned everyone _____ the water without first _____ it.
✔ **E) not to drink / boiling**
Warn someone (not) to do something takes the to-infinitive, here negative: **warned everyone not to drink**. After a preposition such as **without** we use the -ing form: **without first boiling it**.

4. It was his own fault, but I couldn't help _____ sorry for him.
✔ **D) feeling**
Can't/couldn't help (= can't stop yourself) is always followed by the -ing form: **I couldn't help feeling sorry for him**. Not **to feel**, because **help** in this fixed phrase never takes the infinitive.

5. Surely the children were told _____ near the lake.
✔ **A) not to play**
In the passive, **be told** is followed by the to-infinitive; for a negative order use **not to**: **were told not to play**. The other options use the wrong form or tense.

6. Tomorrow, I'll get up and go to work without _____ you.
✔ **B) disturbing**
After the preposition **without** we use the -ing form: **without disturbing you**. Not **being disturbed**, because that is passive and cannot be followed by the object **you**.

7. We were asked by the government _____ electricity.
✔ **E) to conserve**
Ask someone to do something takes the to-infinitive, also in the passive: **We were asked to conserve electricity**. **Not to conserve** is grammatical but makes no sense: governments ask people to save electricity.

8. I enjoy _____ to music in my free time.
✔ **B) listening**
The verb **enjoy** is always followed by the -ing form: **I enjoy listening to music**. Not **to listen**, because **enjoy** never takes the infinitive.

9. Our goal is _____ a qualified president for our club this year.
✔ **B) electing**
After **Our goal is**, we use a gerund or a to-infinitive to say what the goal is. The only correct option here is the gerund **electing**. **Elect** and **elected** are not possible after **is** in this meaning.

10. His ambition was _____ the best doctor ever.
✔ **D) to be**
After nouns like **ambition**, **aim** or **plan** + **was**, we use the to-infinitive to describe the wish: **His ambition was to be the best doctor**. Not **to have been**, because the ambition is about a future result, not a finished past action.

11. I try to stay in shape by _____.
✔ **B) running**
After a preposition such as **by** we use the -ing form. **By + -ing** tells us how we do something: **I stay in shape by running**.

12. Our new administrator is very good at _____ money.
✔ **C) managing**
Good at ends with the preposition **at**, and after a preposition we use the -ing form: **good at managing money**. Not **to manage**, because an infinitive cannot follow **at**.

13. She had hopes of _____ married as soon as she finished school.
✔ **D) getting**
Hopes of ends with the preposition **of**, so the -ing form follows: **hopes of getting married**. Not **to get**, because an infinitive cannot follow **of**.

14. I really like _____ piano lessons.
✔ **E) taking**
Like + -ing is used for activities we enjoy: **I really like taking piano lessons**. **To have took** is wrong (the past participle is **taken**), and **not to take** does not fit the meaning.

15. Some people like _____ in pools but I prefer the sea.
✔ **A) swimming**
Like + -ing talks about activities people enjoy: **Some people like swimming in pools**. **Having swam** is wrong (the past participle is **swum**), and **swim** cannot follow **like** without **to**.

16. It is advisable _____ with the police and _____ them what you know.
✓ C) to cooperate / to tell
After **It is advisable** we use the to-infinitive: **It is advisable to cooperate**. The second verb is joined by **and**, so it keeps the same form: **and to tell them what you know**. **To cooperate with the police** means to work together with them and help them.

17. I am against _____ but I believe in _____ for our rights.
✓ B) fighting / standing up
Both gaps come after prepositions (**against**, **in**), so both need the -ing form: **against fighting**, **believe in standing up for our rights**. Not **fighting / to stand up**, because **believe in** must be followed by -ing, not the infinitive.

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