ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Gerunds and Infinitives Test 3

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Explanations

1. Jane called me up on the phone last night and told me that she felt like _____ out. I told her that she _____ silly as there was no place open at that hour.
✔ **E) going / was being**
Feel like is followed by the -ing form: **felt like going out**. The second gap uses the past continuous **was being** because it is reported speech in the past and describes how she was behaving at that moment (**You're being silly → she was being silly**).

2. The new teacher told us that she thought it was a challenge _____ with the children. Before starting this job, she had expected _____ it difficult and frustrating.
✔ **C) working / to find**
After **it was a challenge**, an -ing form (or a to-infinitive) can follow: **it was a challenge working with the children**. The verb **expect** always takes the to-infinitive: **she had expected to find it difficult**. Not **finding**, because **expect** is never followed by -ing.

3. I know that I remembered _____ the door but I probably neglected _____ the window.
✔ **B) to lock / to close**
Remember + to-infinitive means you did not forget to do something: **I remembered to lock the door**. **Neglect** (= fail to do) is usually followed by the to-infinitive: **neglected to close the window**. Not **locking**, because **remember + -ing** means recalling a past action, which does not fit here.

4. We intend _____ off early tomorrow morning. Otherwise, we will _____ to the beach before noon.
✔ **D) to start / not be able to get**
Intend is followed by the to-infinitive: **We intend to start off early**. **Otherwise** means 'if we don't', so the result must be negative: **we will not be able to get to the beach**. Not **be able to get**, because that gives the opposite meaning.

5. The children were pretending _____ their parents. We couldn't help _____ at the way they looked after they had dressed up.
✔ **A) to be / laughing**
Pretend is followed by the to-infinitive: **pretending to be their parents**. **Can't help** (= can't stop yourself) is followed by the -ing form: **We couldn't help laughing**. Not **to laugh**, because **can't help** never takes the infinitive.

6. _____ is my favourite hobby. Unfortunately, I don't get the chance _____ very often.
✔ **C) diving / to go**
A gerund (-ing form) can be the subject of a sentence: **Diving is my favourite hobby**. The noun **chance** is usually followed by the to-infinitive: **the chance to go**.

7. They are going to postpone _____ with the new director until they _____ all their work completed.
✔ **C) the meeting / have**
Postpone takes a noun or an -ing form, never a to-infinitive, so **postpone the meeting** is correct. After **until**, we use the present simple for the future: **until they have all their work completed** (have + object + past participle). Not **to meet**, because **postpone** is not followed by to.

8. Adam stopped _____ last week. He hasn't had a cigarette since then.
✔ **B) smoking**
Stop + -ing means you no longer do something: **Adam stopped smoking** = he quit. The clue is **He hasn't had a cigarette since then**. Not **to smoke**, because **stop to smoke** means stop another activity in order to smoke.

9. Although I objected to their _____ the complaint letter, they _____ to me.
✔ **E) writing / didn't listen**
Object to is followed by a gerund, and a possessive (**their**) can come before it: **objected to their writing the letter**. The second gap needs a past simple negative: **they didn't listen to me**. Not **to write**, because **to** here is a preposition, not part of an infinitive.

10. I really appreciate your _____ to see me.
✔ **D) coming**
Appreciate is followed by the -ing form, often with a possessive before it: **I appreciate your coming to see me**. Not **to come**, because **appreciate** never takes the to-infinitive.

11. I have hired a woman _____ after my children when I am at work.
✔ **A) to look**
The to-infinitive shows purpose (why I hired her): **I have hired a woman to look after my children**. Not **looking**, because the sentence is about the reason for hiring her, not what she is doing now.

12. She strongly objected _____ to London. She said she preferred _____ the train.
✔ **B) to driving / to take**
Object to is followed by a gerund because **to** is a preposition: **objected to driving**. **Prefer** can take the to-infinitive: **she preferred to take the train**. Not **driving** alone, because **object** needs the preposition **to**.

13. I'm responsible for _____ and _____ new merchandise in my new job.
✓ **D) purchasing / distributing**
After a preposition such as **for**, we use the -ing form, and both verbs joined by **and** need the same form: **responsible for purchasing and distributing**. Not **to purchase**, because a preposition is never followed by a to-infinitive.

14. I can't help _____ about the children when they go on trips. I wish they wouldn't forget _____ me and let me know how they are.
✓ **C) worrying / to phone**
Can't help is followed by the -ing form: **I can't help worrying**. **Forget + to-infinitive** means not remembering to do something you should do: **forget to phone me**. Not **phoning**, because **forget + -ing** refers to forgetting a past event.

15. I hope _____ my homework assignment within the next two days. I'll hand it in next week.
✓ **D) to finish**
Hope is followed by the to-infinitive: **I hope to finish my homework**. Not **finishing**, because **hope** never takes the -ing form.

16. The commission prepared _____ the complaints.
✓ **A) to investigate**
Prepare is followed by the to-infinitive: **The commission prepared to investigate the complaints** (= got ready to investigate). Not **investigating**, because **prepare** does not take the -ing form.

17. Apparently, they have been planning _____ married for a while now.
✓ **A) to get**
Plan is followed by the to-infinitive: **planning to get married**. Not **to have gotten**, because the marriage is still in the future, so the simple infinitive is needed.

18. -- "Let's stop for a moment at the coffee shop and have a cup of coffee."
-- "Yes, that's a good idea. I was thinking about _____ _____, too."
✓ **D) stopping / to smoke**
After the preposition **about**, we use the -ing form: **thinking about stopping**. **Stop + to-infinitive** means stop in order to do something: **stopping to smoke** = stopping so that I can smoke. Not **stopping smoking**, because that means quitting smoking, which doesn't fit a coffee break.

19. I was laughing very hard at the way John was _____ our teacher.
✓ **B) imitating**
Was + -ing forms the past continuous, describing an action in progress: **John was imitating our teacher** (= copying the way he speaks or moves). Not **imitation**, because a noun cannot follow **was** here and still take an object.

20. It took a great deal of _____ before I could convince the children _____ their toys with each other.
✓ **B) talking / to share**
After **a great deal of** (an **of**-phrase), we use a noun or gerund: **a great deal of talking**. **Convince someone** is followed by the to-infinitive: **convince the children to share their toys**. Not **sharing**, because **convince** + object takes **to** + verb.

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