ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Gerunds Test Exercises – Multiple Choice Questions With Answers – Advanced Level 28

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Explanations

1. He decided to give up _____ after that experience.
✔ **C) gambling**
The phrasal verb **give up** (= stop doing something) is followed by a gerund: **give up gambling**, **give up smoking**. Not **to gambling**: here **up** is a particle, not the preposition **to**.

2. I hate _____ money from other people.
✔ **D) borrowing**
Hate is a verb of liking and disliking. It is followed by a gerund to talk about a general dislike: **I hate borrowing money from other people**. (**Hate to borrow** is also possible, but it is not offered here.) Not **to borrowing**: after **hate**, **to** is part of an infinitive, not a preposition, so it cannot be followed by an -ing form. Not **being borrowed**: the passive does not fit, because the speaker is the one who borrows. **Borrow** and **borrowed** cannot follow **hate** directly.

3. At last I have discovered how _____ the door.
✔ **E) to open**
After a question word (**how, what, where, when**) following verbs like **discover, know, learn** or **find out**, we use the to-infinitive: **discover how to open**, **know what to do**. Not **opening**: a gerund cannot follow **how** in this pattern.

4. I want _____ Spanish as it's becoming more important.
✔ **B) to learn**
Want is always followed by the to-infinitive: **I want to learn Spanish**. Not **learning**: **want** doesn't take a gerund in this meaning.

5. If you can't turn the key, try _____ some oil in the lock.
✔ **C) putting**
Try + -ing means doing something as an experiment to see if it solves a problem: **try putting some oil in the lock**. **Try + to-infinitive** means making an effort to do something difficult, which doesn't fit a suggestion for fixing the lock.

6. I don't think that there is anything worth _____ in this film.
✔ **C) watching**
The adjective **worth** is followed by a gerund: **worth watching**, **worth seeing**. Not **being watched**: even though the meaning is passive, **worth** takes the active -ing form.

7. Imagine _____ with a woman who never stops _____.
✔ **D) living / talking**
Both **imagine** and **stop** (meaning 'end an activity') are followed by a gerund: **Imagine living…**, **never stops talking**. **Stop to talk** would mean stopping in order to start talking, which is the opposite meaning.

8. I don't think that it is difficult to get used to _____ with chopsticks like Chinese people.
✔ **E) eating**
In **get used to**, **to** is a preposition, so it is followed by a gerund: **get used to eating with chopsticks**. Not **eat**: don't confuse it with **used to + infinitive** for past habits (**I used to eat meat**).

9. He forgot that I wanted _____ his car.
✔ **D) to use**
Want is followed by the to-infinitive: **I wanted to use his car**. Not **using**: **want** doesn't take a gerund with this meaning.

10. My parents wanted me _____ English.
✔ **D) to learn**
The pattern is **want + object + to-infinitive**: **My parents wanted me to learn English**. Not **learning**: **want somebody doing** is not used.

11. As a result of _____ to what the inspector said, I learnt why he left school.
✔ **C) listening**
After a preposition (here **of** in **as a result of**) we use a gerund: **as a result of listening to what he said**. Not **to listen**: an infinitive cannot follow a preposition.

12. After _____ about it extensively, we finally came to an agreement.
✔ **D) talking**
After is a preposition here, so it is followed by a gerund: **After talking about it…**. The subject **we** did the talking, so the active form is needed, not the passive **being talked**.

13. We are looking forward to _____ your new book.
✔ **C) reading**
In **look forward to**, **to** is a preposition, so it takes a gerund: **We are looking forward to reading your new book**. Not **to read**: this is a very common mistake.

14. I don't enjoy _____ to the dentist as I have been afraid of dentists since I was in primary school.
✔ **B) going**
Enjoy is always followed by a gerund: **I don't enjoy going to the dentist**. Not **to go**: **enjoy** never takes the to-infinitive.

15. I am always against _____ any complaints before _____ the reason for the mistake.
✔ **D) making / knowing**
Both **against** and **before** are prepositions here, so both are followed by gerunds: **against making complaints**, **before knowing the reason**. An infinitive cannot follow a preposition.

16. Would you mind _____ your dog out of the room, as I hate dogs?
✔ **D) putting**
Would you mind is followed by a gerund when making a polite request: **Would you mind putting your dog out of the room?** Not **to put**: **mind** never takes the to-infinitive.

17. By _____ day and night, I managed _____ the job on time.
✔ **E) working / to finish**
After the preposition **by** (showing the method) we use a gerund: **by working day and night**. **Manage** is followed by the to-infinitive: **managed to finish**. Not **managed finishing**: **manage** doesn't take a gerund.

18. They encouraged me _____ it again, so I did.
✔ **D) to try**
The pattern is **encourage + object + to-infinitive**: **They encouraged me to try it again**. Not **trying**: **encourage somebody doing** is incorrect.

19. Jim Dornan invited people _____ his system.
✔ **B) to use**
The pattern is **invite + object + to-infinitive**: **He invited people to use his system**. Not **using**: **invite somebody doing** is incorrect.

20. I'll have to think what _____ when I go to the meeting.
✔ **A) to wear**
A question word (**what, where, how**) after verbs like **think, decide, know** is followed by the to-infinitive: **think what to wear**. Not **wearing**: a gerund cannot follow **what** in this structure.

21. I've been wondering where _____ this Picasso picture.
✔ **C) to hang**
After **wonder** + a question word, we use the to-infinitive: **I've been wondering where to hang this picture** (= where I should hang it). Not **hanging**: a gerund doesn't follow **where** in this pattern.

22. People in the court were furious at _____ for an escaped convict.
✔ **B) being mistaken**
After the preposition **at** (**furious at**) we need a gerund, and the meaning is passive: other people mistook them for a convict. So we use the passive gerund **being mistaken**: **mistake A for B**. Not **mistaking**: that would mean they made the mistake themselves.

23. At last, I found out where _____ fresh fruit and vegetables.
✔ **A) to buy**
Find out + a question word is followed by the to-infinitive: **I found out where to buy fresh fruit** (= where I could buy it). Not **buying**: a gerund cannot follow **where** here.

24. The fact that children prefer _____ TV to _____ worries the parents.
✔ **E) watching / reading**
When comparing two activities with **prefer … to …**, use a gerund in both places: **prefer watching TV to reading**. **Prefer to watch** is possible, but then we say **rather than read**, not **to reading**.

25. Even though I look forward to _____ the new film, I don't think I will be able to watch it.
✔ **B) seeing**
In **look forward to**, **to** is a preposition, so it takes a gerund: **look forward to seeing the film**. The speaker will do the seeing, so the active form is needed, not **being seen**.

26. The mechanic should have considered _____ the motor before _____ it.
✔ **A) re-examining / operating**
Consider (= think about doing) is followed by a gerund: **considered re-examining**. **Before** is a preposition here, so it also takes a gerund: **before operating it**. Not **to re-examine**: **consider** doesn't take the to-infinitive in this meaning.

27. I remember _____ to the country whenever I had health problems.
✔ **D) being taken**
Remember + -ing refers to a memory of something in the past. Here someone else took the speaker to the country, so the passive gerund is needed: **I remember being taken to the country**. Not **taking**: that would need an object (**taking my son**) and means the speaker did the action.

28. The officials wanted _____ the attention of people by giving importance to the robbery last week.
✔ **C) to divert**
Want is followed by the to-infinitive, and the officials did the action, so it is active: **wanted to divert the attention of people**. Not **to be diverted**: that would mean the officials themselves were diverted.

29. He regretted not _____ the film at the cinema since it was not that appealing on television.
✔ **C) having seen**
Regret + gerund expresses sorrow about something in the past. The perfect gerund **not having seen** makes it clear the missed action happened earlier. Not **to see**: **regret to** is used for announcing bad news (**We regret to inform you…**).

30. It is worth _____ at one or two important aspects of the way a mother behaves towards her baby.
✔ **E) looking**
It is worth is followed by a gerund: **It is worth looking at one or two aspects**. Not **to look**: **worth** does not take an infinitive.