ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# Gerunds Test Exercises – Multiple Choice Questions With Answers – Advanced Level 29

Advanced English Grammar Tests · 18 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/gerunds-test-exercises-multiple-choice-questions-with-answers-advanced-level-29/

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **B** | 2 | **D** | 3 | **C** | 4 | **A** | 5 | **B** | 6 | **D** | 7 | **C** | 8 | **B** | 9 | **C** | 10 | **A** |
| 11 | **D** | 12 | **C** | 13 | **C** | 14 | **C** | 15 | **A** | 16 | **C** | 17 | **E** | 18 | **A** | | | | |

## Explanations

**1.** The problem of _____ the machine respond to the presence of objects in different places has already been solved.
✔ **B) making**
After a preposition such as **of**, we use a gerund (-ing form): **the problem of making**. The gerund keeps its own object and pattern: **make the machine respond**. Not **to make**, because a to-infinitive cannot follow a preposition.

**2.** Although the word linguist is sometimes used to refer to a person who speaks several languages, the modern scientific linguist is not particularly interested in actually _____ languages for communication.
✔ **D) using**
The phrase **interested in** ends with a preposition, so the verb after it takes the -ing form: **interested in actually using languages**. Not **being used**: that is passive, but the linguist is the one who uses the languages.

**3.** In games, for example, the _____ boards, cards, dice, and other equipment are merely objects.
✔ **C) playing**
A gerund can come before a noun to show its purpose: **playing boards** are boards used for playing, like **a swimming pool** or **a dining table**. Not **being played**: that is passive and cannot act as a modifier before a noun here.

**4.** By _____ into general linguistic theory a set of linguistic universals, an insistence on naturalness, and the necessity for generalizations, linguists attempt to characterize all human languages.
✔ **A) incorporating**
**By** + gerund shows the method used to do something: **By incorporating … linguists attempt to …**. The linguists do the action and the gerund has an object (**a set of linguistic universals**), so the active **incorporating** is needed, not passive **being incorporated**.

**5.** The wealthier ones took rubber tubing to make catapults and to repair bicycles and helped themselves to chemicals for _____ photographic films.
✔ **B) developing**
**For** + gerund shows the purpose of a thing: **chemicals for developing photographic films**. A preposition is followed by the -ing form, not a to-infinitive. Not **being developed**, because it is passive and the gerund here needs an object (**films**).

**6.** I felt sorry for _____ them that he was a liar.
✔ **D) informing**
**Feel sorry for** ends with a preposition, so it is followed by a gerund: **I felt sorry for informing them** means 'I regretted telling them'. Not **to be informed**: it is passive and a to-infinitive cannot follow **for** here.

**7.** Would you mind my _____ here?
✔ **C) smoking**
**Mind** is followed by a gerund: **Would you mind my smoking here?** A possessive (**my**) or object pronoun (**me**) can come before the gerund to show who does the action. Not **to smoke**, because **mind** never takes a to-infinitive.

**8.** However, he kept _____ into the jungle as if there was no danger.
✔ **B) going**
**Keep** (= continue) is followed by a gerund: **he kept going into the jungle**. Not **to go**, because **keep** never takes a to-infinitive.

**9.** They thought of _____ to the cinema, but I refused because the weather was very beautiful.
✔ **C) going**
**Think of** (= consider) ends with a preposition, so the verb takes the -ing form: **They thought of going to the cinema**. Not **to go**, because a to-infinitive cannot follow **of**.

**10.** I don't think the film is worth _____.
✔ **A) seeing**
**Be worth** is followed by an active gerund, even when the meaning is passive: **The film is worth seeing** (= it deserves to be seen). Not **to be seen**; **worth** is not followed by an infinitive.

**11.** He is the kind of man who doesn't do even a simple favour without _____.
✔ **D) being paid**
After the preposition **without** we use a gerund. The man receives the money, so the passive gerund is needed: **without being paid**. Not **paying**: that would mean he gives the money, which does not fit the meaning.

**12.** "Hey, mummy. Have you seen my _____ shoes?"
✔ **C) running**
A gerund before a noun can show what the thing is used for: **running shoes** are shoes for running. A base form or infinitive cannot be used this way.

**13.** I am looking forward _____ my brother. He has been abroad for three years.
**✓ C) to seeing**
In **look forward to**, **to** is a preposition, not part of an infinitive, so it is followed by a gerund: **I am looking forward to seeing my brother**. Not **to see**, which is a very common mistake.

**14.** What is the point of _____ him in the middle of the night? We can call him in the morning.
**✓ C) phoning**
**What is the point of** + gerund asks why something is worth doing: **What is the point of phoning him now?** After the preposition **of**, we use the -ing form, not **to phone**.

**15.** Nothing can prevent you from _____. You are mortal, like everyone in the world.
**✓ A) dying**
The pattern is **prevent somebody from** + gerund: **Nothing can prevent you from dying**. After the preposition **from** we use the -ing form; **to dying** and **to die** are wrong here.

**16.** According to reports, most wives don't mind their husbands _____ the World Cup. They even like to watch with them.
**✓ C) watching**
**Mind** is followed by a gerund, and a noun or pronoun can come before it to show who does the action: **don't mind their husbands watching the World Cup**. Not **to watch**, because **mind** never takes a to-infinitive.

**17.** Please stop _____ in the back. If you do not want to listen to the lesson, I don't mind your _____ out of the classroom.
**✓ E) talking / going**
**Stop** + gerund means to end an activity: **stop talking**. **Mind** is also followed by a gerund, here with a possessive before it: **I don't mind your going out**. Not **to talk**: **stop to talk** would mean 'stop in order to talk', which is the opposite meaning.

**18.** A: What about _____ Titanic?

B: No, I can't stand _____ a film for more than three hours.
**✓ A) seeing / watching**
**What about** + gerund makes a suggestion: **What about seeing Titanic? Can't stand** (= hate) is usually followed by a gerund: **I can't stand watching a film for more than three hours**. Not **to see**, because the preposition **about** must be followed by the -ing form.

**Practise more on englishtestsonline.com**
Take this test online, download its questions PDF, and find thousands of free English tests:
**englishtestsonline.com · scan the code for this test**
englishtestsonline.com