ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Infinitive – Gerund MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 1

English Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/infinitive-gerund-test-1/

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Explanations

1. He admitted _____ the car but denied _____ it by himself.
✔ **A) stealing / doing**
The verbs **admit** and **deny** are followed by the **-ing** form: **admit doing**, **deny doing**. So the answer is **admitted stealing … denied doing it**. Not **to steal** or **to do**, because neither verb takes the to-infinitive.

2. A: How do you feel if someone laughs at you?

B: I hate people _____ at me.
✔ **B) laughing**
The pattern is **hate + object + -ing**: **I hate people laughing at me**. The people do the action, so we need the active form **laughing**. Not **being laughed**, because that is passive and the people are not being laughed at.

3. We often hear her _____ at concerts.
✔ **B) singing**
Verbs of perception like **hear** use the pattern **hear + object + -ing** (or the bare infinitive): **hear her singing**. Not **to sing**, because **hear somebody** is not followed by **to** in the active.

4. Mother wants him _____ to the country during the summer.
✔ **C) to go**
The pattern is **want + object + to-infinitive**: **Mother wants him to go**. Not **go**, because **want** always needs **to** before the next verb.

5. _____ many books on history helps school children to get knowledge about the past of different nations.
✔ **E) reading**
The gap is the subject of the sentence (_____ **many books … helps**). An action used as a subject takes the **-ing** form (gerund): **Reading many books helps…**. Not **read** or **reads**, because a sentence cannot start with a plain or finite verb as its subject.

6. As well as _____, I like _____.
✔ **A) running / walking**
After the preposition **as well as** at the start of a sentence we use the **-ing** form: **As well as running**. **Like** is also followed by **-ing** for things we enjoy: **I like walking**. Not **run / walk**, because a preposition is not followed by a bare verb.

7. The man _____ the newspaper is my brother.
✔ **D) reading**
The **-ing** form can describe a noun, like a short relative clause: **The man reading the newspaper** = **the man who is reading the newspaper**. Not **reads**, because the sentence already has a main verb (**is**).

8. It is very pleasant _____ in the river on hot days in the summer.
✔ **D) to bathe**
The pattern **It is + adjective + to-infinitive** is used to give an opinion about an action: **It is very pleasant to bathe in the river**. Not **bathe** or **bathed**, because after **pleasant** we need **to** before the verb.

9. He warmed himself by _____ hot tea.
✔ **A) drinking**
By is a preposition, so it is followed by the **-ing** form. **By + -ing** tells us how something was done: **He warmed himself by drinking hot tea**. Not **to drink**, because a preposition cannot be followed by the to-infinitive.

10. It's very pleasant _____ on the beach in summer.
✔ **B) to lie**
The pattern **It's + adjective + to-infinitive** gives an opinion about an action: **It's very pleasant to lie on the beach**. Not **lay**, which is the past of **lie** (or a different verb meaning 'put something down').

11. - I hope my dream will come true this year.

- And what do you dream of?

- Oh, I dream of _____ a law school and _____ a lawyer.
✔ **C) entering / becoming**
Dream of ends in a preposition, so both verbs take the **-ing** form: **I dream of entering a law school and becoming a lawyer**. Not **to enter / to become**, because a preposition is not followed by the to-infinitive.

12. He sat in the armchair _____ a newspaper.
✔ **C) reading**
An **-ing** form after the main verb can show a second action happening at the same time: **He sat in the armchair reading a newspaper** = he sat and was reading. Not **read** or **reads**, because the sentence already has its main verb (**sat**).

13. _____ English is the best way of _____ it.
✔ **B) speaking / learning**
The first gap is the subject, so we use the gerund: **Speaking English**. The second comes after the preposition **of**, so again the **-ing** form: **the best way of learning it**. Not **to speak / to learn**, because **of** cannot be followed by **to learn**.

14. She dreams of her son’s _____ a director of the company.
✓ **A) becoming**
After the preposition **of** we use the **-ing** form, and a possessive (**her son's**) can come before it to show who does the action: **She dreams of her son's becoming a director**. Not **become**, because a preposition is not followed by a bare verb.

15. Why didn’t you try _____ yourself a job?
✓ **D) to find**
Try + to-infinitive means 'make an effort to do something': **Why didn't you try to find yourself a job?** Not **to be found**, because that is passive and you are the person who finds the job.

16. We watched the coastline _____ slowly.
✓ **A) recede**
After **watch + object** we use the bare infinitive (or **-ing**): **We watched the coastline recede slowly** (**recede** = move further away). Not **to recede**, because verbs like **watch**, **see** and **hear** are not followed by **to** in the active.

17. Nobody heard her _____ English.
✓ **C) speak**
Hear + object + bare infinitive is used for a complete action we heard: **Nobody heard her speak English**. Not **spoke** or **speaks**, because the main verb (**heard**) already shows the tense.

18. We stopped at the motorway services _____ something to eat.
✓ **A) to get**
The **to-infinitive** is used to show purpose (why we did something): **We stopped … to get something to eat**. Not **get**, because purpose needs **to** (= **in order to**).

19. I’m not really interested in _____ to university.
✓ **C) going**
Interested in ends in a preposition, so the next verb takes the **-ing** form: **interested in going to university**. Not **go**, because a preposition is not followed by a bare verb.

20. This article is worth _____.
✓ **A) reading**
The expression **be worth** is followed by the **-ing** form: **This article is worth reading** (= it is good enough to read). Not **to read**, because **worth** never takes the to-infinitive.

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