ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Infinitive – Gerund MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 3

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Explanations

1. We saw them _____ the street.
✓ **B) crossing**
After verbs of perception like **see** + object, we use the **-ing** form to show an action in progress: **We saw them crossing the street.** Forms like **crossed** or **will cross** cannot follow **see + object**.

2. It's never too late _____.
✓ **E) to learn**
The pattern **too + adjective** is followed by the **to**-infinitive. **It's never too late to learn** means you can always start learning. Not **learning**, because **too late** needs **to** + verb.

3. The girls _____ in the garden are my sisters.
✓ **C) playing**
Playing in the garden is a participle phrase that describes **the girls**. It is a short form of **who are playing**. Not **are playing**, because the sentence already has a main verb (**are my sisters**).

4. I like _____ people happy.
✓ **C) making**
Like is often followed by the **-ing** form for things we enjoy doing in general: **I like making people happy.** **Having made** refers to a finished past action, which doesn't fit a general preference.

5. When I came into the room she stopped _____ TV.
✓ **A) watching**
Stop + -ing means you finish an activity: **she stopped watching TV** (she was watching, then she stopped). **Stop + to**-infinitive means you stop one thing in order to do another, which is not the meaning here.

6. Besides _____, I like _____ swimming competitions.
✓ **A) swimming / to watch**
Besides is a preposition, so it is followed by the **-ing** form: **besides swimming**. **Like** can be followed by the **to**-infinitive: **I like to watch**. Not **to swim**, because a preposition can't be followed by **to** + verb.

7. Tom wants to read a book but Susan makes him _____ something in the paper. It's an advertisement for a better job. She wants him _____ for this job.
✓ **C) read / to apply**
Make + object is followed by the bare infinitive (no **to**): **makes him read**. **Want + object** is followed by the **to**-infinitive: **wants him to apply**. Not **to read**, because **make** never takes **to** in the active voice.

8. She left the room without _____ goodbye.
✓ **B) saying**
After a preposition like **without**, we use the **-ing** form: **without saying goodbye**.

9. The friends spoke of their _____ together.
✓ **B) going**
After a possessive (**their**) and a preposition (**of**), we use a gerund (**-ing** form) as a noun: **their going together**. Not **to go**, because **of** cannot be followed by **to** + verb.

10. If your plane has crashed high in the mountains, it's best _____ close to the plane. Rescuers have got a better chance of _____ the plane than one person alone.
✓ **A) to keep / finding**
It's best is followed by the **to**-infinitive: **it's best to keep close**. **Chance of** has a preposition, so it takes the **-ing** form: **a better chance of finding the plane**. Not **being found**, because the rescuers are the ones who find the plane (active meaning).

11. Robert saw the doctor _____ the patient.
✓ **E) examine**
See + object + bare infinitive describes a complete action that we saw from start to finish: **saw the doctor examine the patient**. Not **to examine**, because **see** doesn't take **to** in the active voice.

12. The girl _____ in the yard asked me the time.
✓ **D) playing**
Playing in the yard is a participle phrase describing **the girl** (= the girl who was playing). Not **was playing**, because the main verb of the sentence is **asked**.

13. The emperor thought of _____ his state powerful.
✓ **A) making**
After the preposition **of**, we use the **-ing** form. The pattern **make + object + adjective** means 'cause something to be': **thought of making his state powerful**. Not **having become**, because **become** cannot take an object like **his state**.

14. Mother was anxious _____ her family.
✓ **A) to see**
Anxious meaning 'eager, wanting very much' is followed by the **to**-infinitive: **anxious to see her family**. Not **to be seen**, because she wants to see them, not be seen by them.

15. I can't help _____ you about it.
✓ **B) telling**
Can't help (= can't stop yourself) is always followed by the **-ing** form: **I can't help telling you about it.** Not **to tell**, because this fixed expression doesn't take the infinitive.

16. Many builders and engineers from other republics began _____ to build new houses in Moscow in 1995.
✓ **A) helping**
Begin can be followed by the **-ing** form: **began helping to build new houses**. The other options (**would help**, **helped**, **shall help**) are finite verb forms and cannot follow **began**.

17. I have never heard him _____ French.
✓ **B) speaking**
Hear + object is followed by the **-ing** form (or the bare infinitive), not by **to**: **I have never heard him speaking French.** Not **to speak**, because **hear** doesn't take **to** in the active voice.

18. Nobody expected him _____ Lola.
✓ **C) to marry**
Expect + object is followed by the **to**-infinitive: **Nobody expected him to marry Lola.** Not **marry**, because **expect** needs **to**.

19. This holiday is worth _____.
✓ **C) celebrating**
Be worth is always followed by the **-ing** form: **This holiday is worth celebrating.** Not **to celebrate**, because **worth** doesn't take the infinitive.

20. Frank is in hospital. He feels bad. He has to give up _____ and _____ beer. But he can't. He says to his wife, "Would you mind _____ some cigarettes next time?"
✓ **D) smoking / drinking / bringing**
Give up (= stop a habit) is followed by the **-ing** form, and both verbs joined by **and** take the same form: **give up smoking and drinking**. **Would you mind** is also followed by the **-ing** form: **Would you mind bringing…?** Not **smoking / to drink**, because both verbs after **give up** must be **-ing** forms.

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