ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Infinitive – Gerund MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 4

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Explanations

1. Ernest Hemingway was fond of _____ books.
✔ **C) reading**
Fond of ends with the preposition **of**, and a verb after a preposition takes the -ing form (gerund): **fond of reading**. Not **to read**, because **to** + verb cannot follow **of**.

2. Turn on the radio. I want _____ to the news.
✔ **C) to listen**
The verb **want** is followed by the to-infinitive: **I want to listen**. Not **listening**, because **want** does not take a gerund.

3. How do you feel if someone interrupts you? I hate people _____ me.
✔ **E) interrupting**
Hate + object + -ing describes something we dislike when other people do it: **I hate people interrupting me**. Not **not to interrupt**, because the speaker hates being interrupted, not the opposite.

4. After _____ my work I'll join you.
✔ **D) finishing**
After is a preposition here, so the verb after it takes the -ing form: **After finishing my work**. Not **finished**, because a past participle cannot follow **after** in this way.

5. Please try _____ quiet – everyone is sleeping.
✔ **B) to be**
Try + to-infinitive means 'make an effort to do something': **try to be quiet**. Not **being**, because **try + -ing** means 'do something as an experiment to see what happens', which does not fit this request.

6. He enjoyed _____.
✔ **A) singing**
The verb **enjoy** is always followed by the -ing form: **He enjoyed singing**. Not **to sing**, because **enjoy** never takes a to-infinitive.

7. The man _____ in the garden is listening to music.
✔ **C) working**
A present participle can describe a noun and replace a relative clause: **The man working in the garden** = **The man who is working in the garden**. Not **is working**, because the sentence already has its main verb, **is listening**.

8. _____ the article, we began _____ it.
✔ **B) having read / discussing**
The perfect participle **having read** shows that one action was finished before the next: first they read the article, then they discussed it. **Begin** can be followed by the -ing form: **began discussing**. Not **reading / discuss**, because **began** cannot be followed by a bare verb.

9. The man _____ a cigarette is Tom's cousin.
✔ **C) smoking**
The present participle **smoking** describes the man: **The man smoking a cigarette** = **The man who is smoking a cigarette**. Not **smoked**, because the man is doing the action, so a passive past participle does not fit.

10. I'm studying English again because _____ a foreign language is very important.
✔ **D) speaking**
A gerund can be the subject of a sentence: **Speaking a foreign language is very important**. Not **spoken**, because a past participle cannot be the subject of a sentence.

11. I like your _____ English.
✔ **B) speaking**
After a possessive word such as **your**, we use a gerund, which works like a noun: **your speaking English**. Not **speak**, because a base verb cannot follow **your**.

12. Instead of _____ for Olga at home, I decided _____ her in the street.
✔ **B) waiting / to meet**
Instead of ends with a preposition, so it is followed by the -ing form: **instead of waiting**. **Decide** is followed by the to-infinitive: **decided to meet**. Not **waiting / meeting**, because **decide** does not take a gerund.

13. They looked at the _____ plane.
✔ **A) flying**
The present participle **flying** is used like an adjective before a noun: **the flying plane** = the plane that is flying. Not **flown**, because the plane is in the air now, and **flown** has a passive or completed meaning.

14. _____ the language, he couldn't understand the question.
✔ **E) not knowing**
A negative participle clause gives the reason for the main clause: **Not knowing the language** = **Because he didn't know the language**. Not **not to know**, because an infinitive does not express a reason at the start of a sentence like this.

15. Which of these four young men _____ by the fire is your son?
✔ **A) sitting**
The present participle **sitting** describes the young men: **the four young men sitting by the fire** = **who are sitting by the fire**. Not **sits**, because the sentence already has its main verb, **is**.

16. We expect him _____ tomorrow.
✓ **B) to arrive**
Expect + object + to-infinitive: **We expect him to arrive tomorrow**. Not **to have arrived**, because **tomorrow** refers to the future, and the perfect infinitive refers to an earlier action.

17. They sat up all night _____.
✓ **C) talking**
A present participle can describe what someone was doing at the same time as the main action: **They sat up all night talking**. Not **talked**, because the sentence already has its main verb, **sat**.

18. The young man didn't stop _____ although I asked him twice.
✓ **C) smoking**
Stop + -ing means to end an activity: **He didn't stop smoking** means he went on smoking. Not **to smoke**, because **stop + to-infinitive** means 'stop doing something else in order to smoke'.

19. He introduced me to an acquaintance, _____ that I did not know her.
✓ **B) believing**
The participle clause **believing that…** gives the reason for his action: he introduced us **because he believed** I didn't know her. Not **to believe**, because an infinitive would show a purpose, which makes no sense here.

20. I hope _____ you this evening.
✓ **A) to see**
The verb **hope** is followed by the to-infinitive: **I hope to see you**. Not **to be seen**, because the speaker is the one doing the seeing, so the passive does not fit.

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