ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Gerund – Infinitive (Intermediate / Upper-Intermediate) Test 6

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Explanations

1. I lay in bed warm and comfortable _____ to the rain _____ against the windows.
✔ **A) listening / beating**
After a verb of position such as **lay**, we use an **-ing** form to show what the person was doing at the same time: **lay in bed listening**. After **listen to** + object, use the **-ing** form for an action in progress: **listen to the rain beating**. Not **beaten**, because that is a past participle with a passive meaning.

2. The drunk was _____ against a lamp-post _____ to himself.
✔ **A) leaning / talking**
Was leaning is the past continuous, so we need the **-ing** form after **was**. A second **-ing** form, **talking to himself**, shows what he was doing at the same time. Not **leaned**, because **was leaned** would be passive.

3. I didn't expect _____ by him to his marriage ceremony.
✔ **C) to be invited**
Expect is followed by a to-infinitive. Here the meaning is passive (he invites me), so we use the passive infinitive **to be invited**. Not **being invited**, because **expect** does not take an -ing form.

4. Janet is fortunate _____ a scholarship.
✔ **A) to have been given**
Adjectives such as **fortunate**, **lucky** and **glad** are followed by a to-infinitive. The scholarship was given earlier and someone else gave it, so we use the perfect passive infinitive **to have been given**. Not **having been given**, because the adjective needs a to-infinitive (without a preposition).

5. I'm angry with her for _____ me the truth.
✔ **B) not having told**
After a preposition (**for**) we use an -ing form, not an infinitive. The action happened before the anger and she did it, so the perfect active gerund **not having told** fits. Not **not having been told**, because that is passive and the object **me** follows.

6. He admitted _____ the money.
✔ **D) having stolen**
Admit is followed by an -ing form. The stealing happened before the admitting, so the perfect gerund **having stolen** is used (**stealing** would also be possible). Not **to have stolen**, because **admit** does not take a to-infinitive in the active.

7. I can't help _____ about it.
✔ **C) worrying**
Can't help (= can't stop myself) is always followed by an -ing form: **I can't help worrying**. Not **to worry**, because **help** in this meaning does not take an infinitive.

8. She deserves _____ the prize.
✔ **B) to win**
Deserve is normally followed by a to-infinitive: **She deserves to win**. Not **winning**, because **deserve** + -ing has a passive meaning (**The car deserves washing** = it should be washed).

9. I urged her _____ for the job.
✔ **A) to apply**
Urge follows the pattern verb + object + to-infinitive: **urge someone to do something**. So **I urged her to apply**.

10. He is lucky _____ alive after the accident.
✔ **C) to be**
Lucky is followed by a to-infinitive: **He is lucky to be alive**. He is alive now, so the simple infinitive **to be** is correct. Not **being**, because the adjective needs a to-infinitive.

11. The boy did nothing but _____ throughout the lesson.
✔ **B) yawn**
After **do nothing but** we use the bare infinitive (no **to**): **He did nothing but yawn**. Not **yawning** or **to yawn**, because the verb **do** before **but** makes the bare form necessary.

12. She can do everything except _____.
✔ **C) cook**
When **except** or **but** follows the verb **do** (**do everything except**), we use the bare infinitive: **She can do everything except cook**. Not **to cook**, because the bare form matches **do**.

13. Hadn't you better _____ in with that cold?
✔ **A) stay**
Had better is followed by the bare infinitive, also in questions: **Hadn't you better stay in?** Not **to stay**, because **had better** works like a modal verb.

14. I would rather _____ out last night.
✔ **D) not have gone**
Would rather is followed by a bare infinitive. For a past action we regret, we use the perfect bare infinitive: **would rather not have gone** (the clue is **last night**). Not **not to have gone**, because **would rather** never takes **to**.

15. _____ ill, my father could not attend his old friend's funeral.
✔ **B) Being**
A participle clause with **Being** can give a reason: **Being ill** = **Because he was ill**. Not **To be ill**, because a to-infinitive at the start would show purpose, not reason.

16. You should avoid _____ during the rush hour.
✓ **A) traveling**
Avoid is always followed by an -ing form: **avoid traveling** (British spelling: **travelling**). Not **to travel**, because **avoid** does not take an infinitive.

17. I greatly regret _____ those boots when they were so cheap.
✓ **A) not having bought**
Regret + -ing means being sorry about something in the past. The perfect gerund **not having bought** stresses that the action (not buying) came earlier. Not **not to have bought**: **regret** + to-infinitive is used for giving bad news (**I regret to tell you…**).

18. I am not used _____ a suit and tie every day.
✓ **C) to wearing**
In **be used to** (= be accustomed to), **to** is a preposition, so it is followed by an -ing form: **I am not used to wearing a suit**. Not **to wear**, which would mean **used to** for past habits, a different structure.

19. Did you remember _____ the letter I gave you yesterday?
✓ **C) to post**
Remember + to-infinitive means remembering a duty before doing it: **Did you remember to post the letter?** Not **posting**: **remember** + -ing means having a memory of something you already did.

20. I prefer _____ by bus to _____ by train.
✓ **A) traveling / traveling**
The pattern is **prefer** + -ing + **to** + -ing: **I prefer traveling by bus to traveling by train**. Here **to** is a preposition, so an -ing form follows it. With a to-infinitive, we say **prefer to travel by bus rather than travel by train**.

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