ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Gerund – Infinitive (Intermediate / Upper-Intermediate) Test 11

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1	**C**	2	**A**	3	**A**	4	**C**	5	**A**	6	**C**	7	**C**	8	**B**	9	**D**	10	**A**
11	**B**	12	**D**	13	**C**	14	**B**	15	**C**	16	**C**	17	**A**	18	**B**	19	**A**	20	**C**

Explanations

1. Per capita GNP is just a rough way of _____ the ability of different countries _____ goods and services, _____ into account the fact that they have different populations.
✔ **C) comparing / to produce / taking**
After a preposition we use the -ing form: **a way of comparing**. The noun **ability** is followed by the infinitive: **the ability to produce**. The phrase **taking into account** adds extra information about the same action, so it also takes -ing. Not **producing**, because **ability** is never followed by -ing.

2. Can the rich live for ever, _____ to their affairs?
✔ **A) attending**
A present participle (-ing) clause can describe an action happening at the same time as the main verb: **live for ever, attending to their affairs**. Not **having attended**, because the perfect participle shows an earlier, finished action, and that does not fit here.

3. Peace and stability cannot be achieved unless progress is made toward _____ solutions to the world's most _____ problems, including poverty.
✔ **A) finding / pressing**
Toward is a preposition, so the verb after it takes -ing: **toward finding solutions**. **Pressing** is an adjective meaning 'urgent, needing quick attention', as in **pressing problems**. Not **pressed**, which means 'short of something', as in **pressed for time**.

4. The children made this mess, so see that they get it _____ up right away.
✔ **C) cleaned**
Get + object + past participle means making sure something is done: **get it cleaned up**. The object **it** (the mess) is cleaned, so the passive form **cleaned** is needed. Not **clean**, because the mess cannot clean itself.

5. It is no use _____ over _____ milk.
✔ **A) crying / spilt**
It is no use is followed by the -ing form: **It is no use crying**. **Spilt milk** uses a past participle as an adjective, meaning 'milk that has been spilt'. The idiom means there is no point being upset about something that has already happened.

6. I'm sorry, I didn't mean _____ you.
✔ **C) to hurt**
Mean in the sense of 'intend' is followed by the to-infinitive: **I didn't mean to hurt you**. Not **hurting**, because **mean + -ing** has a different meaning ('involve'), as in **This job means working late**.

7. She tried _____ high heels, to make herself _____ taller.
✔ **C) wearing / look**
Try + -ing means doing something as an experiment to see if it works: **She tried wearing high heels**. **Make + object** is followed by the bare infinitive: **make herself look taller**. Not **to look**, because **make** is never followed by **to** in the active voice.

8. I think you'd better _____ by the time they return.
✔ **B) have gone**
Had better is followed by the bare infinitive. The perfect form **have gone** shows that the action must be finished before a future time: **by the time they return**. Not **to have gone**, because **had better** never takes **to**.

9. I prefer my meat well _____.
✔ **D) done**
Prefer + object + past participle describes the state you want something to be in: **I prefer my meat well done**. **Well done** means 'cooked thoroughly'. Not **to be done**, which is possible in some patterns but is not natural with **well** here.

10. _____ ill, she couldn't participate in the contest.
✔ **A) Being**
A participle clause with **being** gives the reason for the main clause: **Being ill** = **Because she was ill**. Not **To be**, because an infinitive at the start of a sentence shows purpose, not reason.

11. The teacher made us _____ the whole exercise.
✔ **B) rewrite**
In the active voice, **make + object** is followed by the bare infinitive: **made us rewrite**. Not **to rewrite**. We only use **to** in the passive: **We were made to rewrite it**.

12. His wife got him _____ drinking.
✔ **D) to stop**
Get + person + to-infinitive means persuading someone to do something: **got him to stop drinking**. Not **stop**, because the bare infinitive follows **make** and **let**, not **get**.

13. _____ that tea will make you feel _____.
✔ **C) Drinking / relaxed**
A gerund is the usual subject of a sentence: **Drinking that tea**. After **feel** we need an adjective describing the person: **relaxed** means how you feel. Not **relaxing**, which describes the thing that causes the feeling, as in **a relaxing bath**.

14. I'll have the clothes _____ and _____.
✓ **B) washed / ironed**
Have + object + past participle means arranging for someone else to do a job: **I'll have the clothes washed and ironed**. The clothes receive the action, so both verbs are past participles. Not **wash / iron**: **have** + object + bare infinitive is used only when the object is the person who does the job (**I'll have the cleaner wash them**). Clothes cannot wash or iron anything.

15. They were _____ it but they forgot.
✓ **C) to have brought**
Was/were + perfect infinitive (**were to have brought**) describes a plan or arrangement that did not happen. The clue is **but they forgot**. Not **to be brought**, because that is passive, and **they** were the ones who should bring it.

16. I was just about _____ you when you phoned me.
✓ **C) to phone**
Be about + to-infinitive means 'be going to do something very soon': **I was just about to phone you**. Not **phoning**, because **about** in this fixed expression always takes the to-infinitive.

17. She is certain _____ by plane.
✓ **A) to come**
Be certain + to-infinitive shows that the speaker is sure something will happen: **She is certain to come by plane** = She will definitely come by plane. Not **coming**, because **certain** is never followed directly by -ing. The pattern **be certain of** + -ing exists, but it describes the subject's own feeling: **She is certain of winning** = she feels sure she will win.

18. I would _____ him if I had seen him in time.
✓ **B) have told**
This is a third conditional about the past: **if + past perfect**, **would have + past participle**. The clue is **if I had seen**, so we need **would have told**. Not **had told**, because **would** is never followed by **had**.

19. He seems _____ something.
✓ **A) to have lost**
The perfect infinitive after **seem** shows an action before the present: **He seems to have lost something** = **It seems that he has lost something**. Not **to have been lost**, because that is passive and cannot be followed by an object like **something**.

20. The new bridge should _____ by now.
✓ **C) have been finished**
Should + have been + past participle is the passive perfect. It expresses an expectation about something that ought to be complete already: **should have been finished by now**. The bridge does not finish itself, so the passive is needed. Not **have finished**, because that is active and would mean the bridge did the finishing.

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