ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Self Study Guide – Test Your English Grammar Part 12

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Explanations

1. Many of the early British settlers in Australia were criminals who were able to avoid _____ by agreeing to live on and develop the land there.
✓ **C) being imprisoned**
The verb **avoid** is followed by the -ing form. The settlers were the ones who would be sent to prison, so we need the passive -ing form: **being imprisoned**. Not **to be imprisoned**, because **avoid** never takes a to-infinitive.

2. The environment group hopes _____ the forest to its original condition by the end of the decade.
✓ **B) to restore**
The verb **hope** is followed by a to-infinitive: **hope to do something**. The group will do the restoring itself, so the active form **to restore** is right. Not **to be restored**, because that is passive and would not fit before **the forest**.

3. Tom dislikes _____. It's just terrible!
✓ **D) Ann's cooking**
Dislike is followed by an -ing form or a noun. Here **cooking** is used as a noun, and the possessive **Ann's** shows whose cooking it is: **Tom dislikes Ann's cooking.** The next sentence, **It's just terrible!**, describes the cooking itself.

4. Normally I can't stand being in a car with drivers who take risks but on this occasion, I couldn't help _____.
✓ **C) laughing**
Can't help / **couldn't help** + -ing means you cannot stop yourself from doing something: **I couldn't help laughing.** Not **to laugh**, because this phrase is never followed by a to-infinitive.

5. Helen doesn't mind _____ cigars in the bedroom.
✓ **B) Tom's smoking**
Mind is followed by an -ing form. When another person does the action, we can put a possessive before the -ing form: **Helen doesn't mind Tom's smoking.** Not **Tom to smoke**, because **mind** doesn't take an object + to-infinitive.

6. I can't stand _____ all the time when I am around them.
✓ **A) them fighting**
Can't stand is followed by an -ing form, and we can put an object pronoun before it: **I can't stand them fighting.** Not **they fighting**, because after a verb we need the object pronoun **them**, not the subject pronoun **they**.

7. Instead of collecting art objects, more ordinary people enjoy _____ stamps or coins.
✓ **D) collecting**
Enjoy is always followed by the -ing form: **enjoy collecting stamps**. Not **to collect**, because **enjoy** never takes a to-infinitive.

8. The French impressionist painters attempted to depict visual impressions and they succeeded _____ brilliant results.
✓ **D) in achieving**
Succeed is followed by the preposition **in** + -ing form: **succeed in achieving**. Not **to achieve**, because **succeed** does not take a to-infinitive (compare **manage to achieve**).

9. The company has managed _____ a profit this year.
✓ **C) to make**
Manage is followed by a to-infinitive: **manage to do something**. So we say **The company has managed to make a profit.** Not **making** or **in making**; those forms go with **succeed in**, not with **manage**.

10. The people in the state failed _____ clean up the mess that the oil spill had created.
✓ **C) to help**
Fail is followed by a to-infinitive: **fail to do something**. **Help** can be followed by a bare infinitive, so we get **failed to help clean up the mess**. Not **helping**, because **fail** doesn't take the -ing form.

11. You won't succeed _____ your car at a profit. It's far too old.
✓ **D) in selling**
Succeed is followed by **in** + -ing form: **You won't succeed in selling your car.** Not **to sell**, because **succeed** doesn't take a to-infinitive.

12. At last, after three days, they managed _____ to the top of the mountain.
✓ **C) to get**
Manage is followed by a to-infinitive: **they managed to get to the top**. Not **getting**, because **manage** doesn't take the -ing form.

13. Driving by a shopping mall on his way home, Steve stopped _____ his mother a birthday present.
✓ **A) to get**
Stop + to-infinitive means you stop one activity in order to do something else. Steve stopped driving so that he could get a present: **stopped to get**. Not **getting**: **stop getting** would mean he no longer gets presents for her.

14. – How are you two getting on?

– Don't you know that we've stopped _____?
✓ **B) dating**
Stop + -ing means you no longer do something: **we've stopped dating** = we are not going out together any more. Not **to date**: **stop to date** would mean they stopped doing something else in order to date.

15. Fortunately it stopped _____.
✓ **B) raining**
Stop + -ing means an action ends: **it stopped raining** = the rain ended. Not **to rain**, because **stop** + to-infinitive means stopping in order to do something else.

16. When the teacher asked the students _____, they kept making noise.
✓ **D) to stop talking**
Ask someone is followed by a to-infinitive: **asked the students to stop**. Then **stop** + -ing means end an action: **stop talking**. So the answer is **to stop talking**. Not **to stop to talk**, which would mean stopping in order to talk.

17. Oh, dear! I forgot _____ the soap.
✓ **C) to buy**
Forget + to-infinitive means you did not do something you needed to do: **I forgot to buy the soap**, so there is no soap. **Oh, dear!** shows something was not done. Not **buying**: **forget** + -ing is about not remembering a past event.

18. I remember _____ at the school gates with my mother on my first day there.
✓ **C) arriving**
Remember + -ing is used for a memory of something that happened in the past: **I remember arriving at the school gates.** Not **to arrive**: **remember to do** means not forgetting a task you still need to do.

19. I remember _____ my first bicycle, the feeling of delight still being fresh in my mind.
✓ **D) buying**
Remember + -ing is used for a memory of a past event: **I remember buying my first bicycle.** The words **the feeling of delight still being fresh** show it is a memory. Not **to buy**, which would mean not forgetting a future task.

20. Oh, I forgot _____ the present for my sweet girl!
✓ **B) to buy**
Forget + to-infinitive means you did not do something you needed to do: **I forgot to buy the present**, so there is no present. Not **buying**, which would mean not remembering a past event.

21. I regret _____ school at fourteen; it was a big mistake.
✓ **D) leaving**
Regret + -ing means you are sorry about something you did in the past: **I regret leaving school at fourteen.** The clue is **it was a big mistake**. Not **to have left**: **regret** + to-infinitive is used for giving bad news (**We regret to inform you…**).

22. That night was terrible, to say the least of it. Jane remembers _____ all night through.
✓ **B) saying prayers**
Remember + -ing is used for a memory of a past event. Jane is thinking back to that terrible night: **she remembers saying prayers all night**. Not **to say prayers**, which would mean not forgetting a task she still has to do.

23. The Oscar winner was so happy to receive the highest honour of her profession that she nearly cried during her acceptance speech. Don't forget _____ it in your report.
✓ **B) to write**
Don't forget + to-infinitive is used to remind someone of a task they must do in the future: **Don't forget to write it in your report.** Not **writing**: **forget** + -ing is about not remembering a past event.

24. You must remember _____ Mr Lewis from the station tomorrow.
✓ **D) to fetch**
Remember + to-infinitive means not forgetting a task you must do. The word **tomorrow** shows it is a future task: **You must remember to fetch Mr Lewis.** Not **fetching**, which would be a memory of a past action.

25. I'll never forget _____ the Queen on that bright day in 1974.
✓ **A) meeting**
Never forget + -ing is used for a past experience you will always remember: **I'll never forget meeting the Queen.** The clue is **in 1974**, so it is about the past. Not **to meet**, which would be about a future task.

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