ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

The Infinitive – The Gerund -Participles Test B1 Grammar Exercises

A2 B1 Level Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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Explanations

1. Somehow, he managed _____ the locked door without _____ it.
✔ **C) to open / damaging**
Manage is followed by the to-infinitive: **managed to open**. After a preposition like **without**, use the -ing form: **without damaging**.

2. _____ alcohol with medication causes serious health issues _____.
✔ **A) Taking / to occur**
A gerund can be the subject of a sentence: **Taking alcohol … causes …**. The pattern is **cause + object + to-infinitive**: **causes health issues to occur**. Not **occurring**, because **cause** is not followed by object + -ing here.

3. The text was too long for me _____ on my own so I asked Steve _____ me with it.
✔ **C) to translate / to help**
Use **too + adjective + for someone + to-infinitive**: **too long for me to translate**. **Ask** follows the pattern **ask someone to do something**: **asked Steve to help me**.

4. I'd rather _____ a new television because it's not worth _____ such an old TV set repaired.
✔ **B) buy / having**
Would rather is followed by the bare infinitive (no **to**): **I'd rather buy**. **It's (not) worth** is followed by the -ing form: **not worth having it repaired**.

5. You seem _____ a mistake _____ these two numbers.
✔ **A) to have made / adding**
Use the perfect infinitive after **seem** for a past action: **You seem to have made a mistake** (the mistake happened before now). **Make a mistake + -ing** describes the activity: **a mistake adding these numbers**.

6. Our caravan is big enough for the four of us _____ in comfortably for a week.
✔ **D) to travel**
The pattern is **adjective + enough + for someone + to-infinitive**: **big enough for the four of us to travel in**. Not **travelling**, because **enough** is followed by the to-infinitive.

7. Mum thinks my hair needs _____, but I don't want _____ it cut yet.
✔ **B) cutting / to get**
Need + -ing has a passive meaning: **my hair needs cutting** = my hair needs to be cut. **Want** is followed by the to-infinitive: **I don't want to get it cut**. Not **needs to cut**, because the hair can't cut anything itself.

8. What do you suggest _____ after work today _____ some fun?
✔ **B) doing / to have**
Suggest is followed by the -ing form: **suggest doing**. The second gap shows purpose (why), so use the to-infinitive: **to have some fun**.

9. I think I've lost my coat button trying _____ on the bus in that crowd, so I need _____ one that matches the others.
✔ **B) to get / to find**
Try + to-infinitive means make an effort to do something difficult: **trying to get on the bus**. **Need** is followed by the to-infinitive: **I need to find one**. Not **trying getting**, because **try + -ing** means doing something as an experiment.

10. I will never forget _____ in that snowstorm for hours.
✔ **C) driving**
Forget + -ing refers to a memory of something that happened in the past: **I will never forget driving in that snowstorm**. Not **to drive**, because **forget to do** means not remembering to do something you should do.

11. The Himalayas are known _____ for the past fifty million years.
✔ **A) to have been rising**
Be known is followed by the to-infinitive. The clue **for the past fifty million years** shows an action that started in the past and continues, so use the perfect continuous infinitive: **to have been rising**.

12. They seemed _____ about us because they kept _____ at us while they were talking.
✔ **D) to be gossiping / looking**
Seem takes the to-infinitive; the continuous form **to be gossiping** shows an action in progress at that moment. **Keep** is followed by the -ing form: **kept looking**. Not **to look**, because **keep** never takes the to-infinitive.

13. It's no use _____ advice on how _____ something when it's already been done.
✔ **C) giving / to do**
It's no use is followed by the -ing form: **It's no use giving advice**. Question words like **how** are followed by the to-infinitive: **how to do something**.

14. It took him some time _____ _____ damage to the car.
✔ **B) to admit / to causing**
The pattern is **It takes someone time + to-infinitive**: **It took him some time to admit**. In **admit to**, **to** is a preposition, so it is followed by the -ing form: **admit to causing damage**. Not **to cause**, because a preposition is not followed by an infinitive.

15. I don't think it will be easy for me _____ used _____ on the left in Britain.
✓ **D) to get / to driving**
Use **easy for someone + to-infinitive**: **easy for me to get used**. In **get used to**, **to** is a preposition, so it takes the -ing form: **get used to driving**. Not **to drive**, because **used to driving** means 'accustomed to driving'.

16. They don't allow _____ the building until they have finished _____ it.
✓ **A) entering / renovating**
Allow without an object is followed by the -ing form: **They don't allow entering** (but **allow someone to enter**). **Finish** is followed by the -ing form: **finished renovating it**. Not **to enter**, because there is no object after **allow**.

17. I'd prefer _____ for the next bus rather than travel on a crowded one because I have difficulty _____ up for long.
✓ **B) to wait / standing**
Would prefer is followed by the to-infinitive: **I'd prefer to wait … rather than travel**. **Have difficulty** is followed by the -ing form: **have difficulty standing**. Not **wait**, because **would prefer** needs **to**.

18. Will you stop _____ with your fingers? I'm trying _____ on my work.
✓ **D) tapping / to concentrate**
Stop + -ing means end an activity: **stop tapping**. **Try + to-infinitive** means make an effort: **I'm trying to concentrate**. Not **trying concentrating**, because **try + -ing** means doing something as an experiment.

19. People _____ from dyslexia have problems _____ to read and write.
✓ **A) suffering / learning**
Suffering from dyslexia is a participle phrase that describes the people (= people who suffer). **Have problems** is followed by the -ing form: **have problems learning to read**.

20. Obsessive people can't help _____ a particular activity over and over again.
✓ **C) doing**
Can't help is followed by the -ing form and means you can't stop yourself: **can't help doing**. Not **to do**, because **can't help** never takes the to-infinitive in this meaning.

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