



Gerunds and Infinitives: Both Forms Allowed: Different Meanings

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- I'll never forget ____ the ocean for the first time.
a) to see
b) see
c) seeing
d) saw
- Remember ____ the lights before you leave.
a) to turn off
b) turning off
c) turn off
d) turned off
- She stopped ____ a rest because she was tired.
a) taking
b) to take
c) take
d) took
- Moving to a new city means ____ new friends.
a) to make
b) make
c) made
d) making
- She tried hard ____ the problem, but she couldn't find the answer.
a) to solve
b) solving
c) solve
d) solved
- He went on ____ about his holiday for hours.
a) to talk
b) talk
c) talking
d) talked
- I regret ____ you that your application has been rejected.
a) telling
b) to tell
c) tell
d) told
- The garden needs ____ — it's full of weeds.
a) to weed
b) weed
c) weeded
d) weeding
- Please remember ____ me when you arrive at the airport.
a) calling
b) call
c) to call
d) called
- He stopped ____ so much coffee because the doctor told him to.
a) drinking
b) to drink
c) drink
d) drunk
- She regrets ____ so much money on clothes last month.
a) to spend
b) spending
c) spend
d) spent



Answers

1. c) seeing
2. a) to turn off
3. b) to take
4. d) making
5. a) to solve
6. c) talking
7. b) to tell
8. d) weeding
9. c) to call
10. a) drinking
11. b) spending
12. d) to start
13. c) painting
14. a) to do
15. b) to hurt
16. d) changing
17. c) to buy
18. a) moving
19. b) watching
20. d) to go



Explanations

1. “seeing” (c)

'Forget doing' means you have a memory of a past experience. 'I'll never forget seeing the ocean' = I will always remember that experience. 'Forget to do' means you fail to do something you should do.

2. “to turn off” (a)

'Remember to do' means 'don't forget to do something in the future'. 'Remember to turn off the lights' = make sure you do it before leaving. 'Remember doing' means recalling a past action.

3. “to take” (b)

'Stop to do' means to pause what you are doing in order to do something else. She stopped (what she was doing) to take a rest. 'Stop doing' would mean she quit taking rests, which contradicts the context.

4. “making” (d)

'Mean doing' means 'involve' or 'result in'. Moving to a new city involves making new friends. 'Mean to do' means 'intend', which doesn't fit here because a city move (not a person) is the subject.

5. “to solve” (a)

'Try to do' means to make an effort or attempt something difficult. She made an effort to solve the problem but failed. 'Try doing' means to experiment with a method to see if it works.

6. “talking” (c)

'Go on doing' means to continue the same activity. He continued talking (the same activity) for hours. 'Go on to do' means to proceed to the next activity.

7. “to tell” (b)

'Regret to do' is a formal expression used when delivering bad news. 'I regret to tell you...' = I'm sorry to inform you. 'Regret doing' means feeling sorry about something you did in the past.

8. “weeding” (d)

'Need doing' means 'need to be done' (passive meaning). 'The garden needs weeding' = the garden needs to be weeded. 'Need to do' requires a person as the subject (I need to weed the garden).

9. “to call” (c)

'Remember to do' means 'don't forget to do something in the future'. The speaker is asking the person to call when they arrive. 'Remember doing' means recalling something that already happened.

10. “drinking” (a)

'Stop doing' means to quit or cease an activity. He quit drinking coffee because of the doctor's advice. 'Stop to do' would mean he paused in order to drink, which contradicts the doctor's advice.

11. “spending” (b)

'Regret doing' means feeling sorry about a past action. She feels sorry about spending too much money last month. 'Regret to do' is used for delivering bad news formally.

12. “to start” (d)

'Go on to do' means to proceed to something new or different. She finished her degree and then started a business (a new activity). 'Go on doing' means to continue the same activity.

13. “painting” (c)

'Need doing' means 'need to be done' (passive meaning). 'The walls need painting' = the walls need to be painted. The subject (walls) receives the action.

14. “to do” (a)

'Forget to do' means to fail to remember to do something. 'Don't forget to do your homework' = remember to do it. 'Forget doing' means to forget a memory of a past event.

15. “to hurt” (b)

'Mean to do' means 'intend to do'. He didn't intend to hurt you. 'Mean doing' means 'involve' or 'result in', which doesn't fit when a person is the subject.

16. “changing” (d)

'Try doing' means to experiment with a method to see if it works. Try changing the battery as a possible solution. 'Try to do' means to make an effort to do something difficult.

17. “to buy” (c)

'Stop to do' means to pause what you are doing in order to do something else. She stopped (paused her journey) to buy some milk. 'Stop doing' would mean she quit buying milk, which doesn't fit the context.

18. “moving” (a)

'Mean doing' means 'involve' or 'result in'. Taking this job involves moving to another city. When the subject is a thing or situation (not a person), 'mean' + gerund = 'involve'.

19. “watching” (b)

'Remember doing' means recalling a past experience. I recall the experience of watching this film in childhood. 'Remember to do' means 'don't forget to do something in the future'.

20. “to go” (d)

'Need to do' means it is necessary for the subject to perform the action. I need to go to the bank. 'Need doing' (e.g., 'The car needs washing') has a passive meaning and is used when the subject receives the action.