



Gerunds and Infinitives:

Mixed Practice: Gerunds vs Infinitives Review

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. She apologised for ____ so late.
a) to arrive
b) arriving
c) arrive
d) arrived
2. He promised ____ the report by Friday.
a) finishing
b) finish
c) finished
d) to finish
3. I remember ____ my first bicycle when I was six.
a) riding
b) to ride
c) ride
d) rode
4. She went to the shop ____ some bread.
a) buying
b) buy
c) to buy
d) bought
5. Would you mind ____ the window? It's very hot.
a) opening
b) to open
c) open
d) opened
6. He avoided ____ about his problems at work.
a) to talk
b) talk
c) talking
d) talked
7. They can't afford ____ a new house in this area.
a) buying
b) to buy
c) buy
d) bought
8. She is used to ____ early every morning.
a) to get up
b) get up
c) got up
d) getting up
9. After the speech, the president went on ____ questions from the press.
a) answering
b) answer
c) to answer
d) answered
10. I look forward to ____ you at the conference next week.
a) seeing
b) to see
c) see
d) saw
11. Don't forget ____ the door when you leave.
a) locking
b) to lock
c) lock
d) locked



Answers

1. b) arriving
2. d) to finish
3. a) riding
4. c) to buy
5. a) opening
6. c) talking
7. b) to buy
8. d) getting up
9. c) to answer
10. a) seeing
11. b) to lock
12. d) knowing
13. c) spending
14. a) to drive
15. b) to say
16. d) taking
17. c) to have
18. a) taking
19. b) replacing
20. d) to learn



Explanations

1. “arriving” (b)

After a preposition ('for'), we always use a gerund (-ing form). 'She apologised for arriving late' is correct.

2. “to finish” (d)

The verb 'promise' is always followed by a to-infinitive. 'He promised to finish the report' is correct.

3. “riding” (a)

'Remember doing' means recalling a past experience. The speaker recalls the memory of riding a bicycle at age six. 'Remember to do' means 'don't forget to do something in the future'.

4. “to buy” (c)

The to-infinitive is used to express purpose (= in order to). She went to the shop in order to buy bread.

5. “opening” (a)

The verb 'mind' is always followed by a gerund (-ing form). 'Would you mind opening the window?' is a polite request.

6. “talking” (c)

The verb 'avoid' is always followed by a gerund (-ing form). 'He avoided talking about his problems' is correct.

7. “to buy” (b)

The verb 'afford' is always followed by a to-infinitive. 'They can't afford to buy a new house' is correct.

8. “getting up” (d)

In 'be used to', the word 'to' is a preposition (not part of an infinitive), so it must be followed by a gerund. 'She is used to getting up early' is correct. Don't confuse with 'used to + infinitive' (past habit).

9. “to answer” (c)

'Go on to do' means to proceed to a different activity. After the speech (one activity), the president answered questions (a new activity). 'Go on doing' would mean continuing the same activity.

10. “seeing” (a)

In 'look forward to', the word 'to' is a preposition (not part of an infinitive), so it must be followed by a gerund. 'I look forward to seeing you' is correct.

11. “to lock” (b)

'Forget to do' means failing to remember to do something. 'Don't forget to lock the door' = remember to lock it. 'Forget doing' means forgetting a past experience.

12. “knowing” (d)

The verb 'deny' is always followed by a gerund (-ing form). 'She denied knowing anything' is correct.

13. “spending” (c)

'Mean doing' means 'involve' or 'result in'. Taking this course involves spending three evenings at school. When a situation (not a person) is the subject, 'mean' + gerund = 'involve'.

14. “to drive” (a)

The verb 'offer' is always followed by a to-infinitive. 'He offered to drive me to the airport' is correct.

15. “to say” (b)

'Regret to do' is a formal expression used when delivering bad news. 'I regret to say...' = I'm sorry to inform you. 'Regret doing' means feeling sorry about a past action.

16. “taking” (d)

The verb 'suggest' is always followed by a gerund (-ing form). 'She suggested taking a taxi' is correct. 'Suggest to take' is a common mistake.

17. “to have” (c)

'Stop to do' means to pause in order to do something. He stopped (his journey) in order to have a coffee. 'Stop doing' would mean he quit having coffee.

18. “taking” (a)

After a preposition ('about'), we always use a gerund (-ing form). 'We are thinking about taking a holiday' is correct.

19. “replacing” (b)

'Need doing' means 'need to be done' (passive meaning). 'My phone needs replacing' = my phone needs to be replaced. The subject (phone) receives the action.

20. “to learn” (d)

After 'would love', we always use the to-infinitive. 'She would love to learn' is correct. We cannot say 'She would love learning' in this structure.