

Universidad de Los Andes  
Facultad de Humanidades y Educación  
Escuela de Idiomas Modernos

### **Gerunds vs. Infinitives: Exercises<sup>1</sup>**

I. Combine the given words (or ideas) into one sentence. Make any necessary changes in the form of the verbs.

**EXAMPLE:** play soccer . . . spend . . . all yesterday afternoon . . . we

*We spent all yesterday afternoon playing soccer.*

1. a really good time . . . all of us . . . have . . . play soccer in the park . . . yesterday

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2. find . . . have trouble . . . Omar . . . my house . . . last night

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3. my bicycle . . . my mother . . . try to steal . . . catch . . . some neighborhood kids . . . yesterday

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4. at the window . . . stand . . . when the boss walked into the office . . . all of the employees . . . watch the parade on the street below

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5. my father always said, ". . . read novels . . . your time . . . from other kinds of books . . . when you could be learning something worthwhile . . . don't waste"

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6. when Mrs. Smith checked on the children last night . . . play a game . . . find . . . instead of sleeping . . . them . . . she

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7. Susan . . . find . . . when I opened the door . . . I . . . on her bed . . . cry . . . lie

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II. Select the correct expression that completes each sentence.

1. Whenever we met, Jack avoided \_\_\_\_ at me.

A. to look      B. looking

2. Most people enjoy \_\_\_\_ to different parts of the world.

A. to travel      B. traveling

3. Marjorie needs \_\_\_\_ another job. Her present company is going out of business.

A. to find      B. finding

4. May I change the TV channel, or do you want \_\_\_\_ more of this program?

A. to watch      B. watching

5. Joan is considering \_\_\_\_ her major from pre-med studies to psychology.

A. to change      B. changing

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from: Azar, B. S. (2000). Understanding and using English grammar - Workbook (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). White Plains, NY: Longman; pp. 153-163.

6. Although Joe slammed on his brakes, he couldn't avoid \_\_\_\_\_ the small dog that suddenly darted out in front of his car.  
A. to hit            B. hitting
7. I hope \_\_\_\_\_ my autobiography before I die. Do you think anyone would read it?  
A. to write        B. writing
8. Joyce thanked us for \_\_\_\_\_ them to dinner and said that they wanted to have us over for dinner next week.  
A. to invite       B. inviting
9. If you delay \_\_\_\_\_ your bills, you will only incur more and more interest charges.  
A. to pay          B. paying
10. My lawyer advised me not \_\_\_\_\_ anything further about the accident.  
A. to say          B. saying
11. A procrastinator is a person who habitually postpones \_\_\_\_\_ things - especially tasks that are unpleasant.  
A. to do           B. doing
12. You should plan \_\_\_\_\_ at the stadium early or you won't be able to get good seats.  
A. to arrive       B. arriving
13. My mom asked me \_\_\_\_\_ up some eggs at the supermarket on my way home from work.  
A. to pick         B. picking
14. Nobody has offered \_\_\_\_\_ the house next door, so I think they're going to lower the price.  
A. to buy          B. buying
15. The highway patrol advises \_\_\_\_\_ the old route through the city because the interstate highway is under major repairs.  
A. to take         B. taking
16. Would you mind \_\_\_\_\_ that apple for me? My arthritis is acting up in my right hand.  
A. to peel         B. peeling
17. Stop \_\_\_\_\_ me! I'll get everything finished before I go to bed.  
A. to nag          B. nagging
18. When the university suggested \_\_\_\_\_ the tuition again, the student senate protested vigorously.  
A. to raise        B. raising
19. Are we permitted \_\_\_\_\_ guests to the ceremony? I'd like to invite my friend to join us.  
A. to bring        B. bringing
20. The city council agreed \_\_\_\_\_ the architect's proposed design for a new parking garage.  
A. to accept       B. accepting

III. Choose the best answer or answers. In some cases, BOTH answers are correct.

1. John was trying \_\_\_\_\_ the door with the wrong key.  
A. unlocking        B. to unlock
2. The audience began \_\_\_\_\_ before the curtains closed.  
A. clapping         B. to clap
3. The soccer teams continued \_\_\_\_\_ even though it began to snow.  
A. playing           B. to play
4. We like \_\_\_\_\_ outside when the weather is warm and sunny.  
A. eating            B. to eat
5. We began \_\_\_\_\_ to the news when we heard the Olympics mentioned.

- A. listening                      B. to listen
6. I was just beginning \_\_\_\_\_ asleep when the phone rang.  
A. falling                          B. to fall
7. I really hate \_\_\_\_\_ late for appointments.  
A. being                            B. to be
8. The cake was starting \_\_\_\_\_ when I took it out of the oven.  
A. burning                        B. to burn
9. She's so impatient! She can't stand \_\_\_\_\_ in line for anything.  
A. waiting                        B. to wait
10. I prefer \_\_\_\_\_ my bicycle to work because the automobile traffic is too heavy.  
A. riding                          B. to ride
11. Lillian prefers \_\_\_\_\_ to taking the bus.  
A. walking                        B. to walk
12. Tim prefers \_\_\_\_\_ than to jog for exercise.  
A. walking                        B. to walk
13. The baby loves \_\_\_\_\_ in the car.  
A. riding                          B. to ride
14. Near the end of the performance, the audience began \_\_\_\_\_ their feet on the floor.  
A. stamping                      B. to stamp
15. The audience began to clap and \_\_\_\_\_ their feet on the floor.  
A. stamping                      B. (to) stamp
16. The audience began clapping and \_\_\_\_\_ their feet on the floor.  
A. stamping                      B. (to) stamp
17. My son sometimes forgets \_\_\_\_\_ the stove when he is finished cooking.  
A. turning off                    B. to turn off
18. Alex will never forget \_\_\_\_\_ his first helicopter ride.  
A. taking                          B. to take
19. Would you please remember \_\_\_\_\_ away all the tapes when you're finished listening to them?  
A. putting                        B. to put
20. I remember \_\_\_\_\_ them away when I finished with them last night.  
A. putting                        B. to put
21. I remember \_\_\_\_\_ Bolivia for the first time. It's a beautiful country.  
A. visiting                        B. to visit
22. What am I going to do? I forgot \_\_\_\_\_ my calculus text, and I need it for the review today.  
A. bringing                      B. to bring
23. My boss regrets \_\_\_\_\_ his secretary now that she is gone.  
A. firing                          B. to fire
24. The letter said, "I regret \_\_\_\_\_ you that your application has been denied."  
A. informing                      B. to inform
25. I haven't been able to get in touch with Shannon. I tried \_\_\_\_\_ her. Then I tried \_\_\_\_\_ her a letter. I tried \_\_\_\_\_ a message with her brother when I talked to him. Nothing worked.  
A. calling . . . writing . . . leaving    B. to call . . . to write . . . to leave
26. I always try \_\_\_\_\_ my bills on time, but sometimes I'm a little late.  
A. paying                        B. to pay

IV. Complete the sentences with the correct form, gerund or infinitive, using the words in parentheses.

1. The store offered \_\_\_\_\_ the money I paid for the book I returned. (*refund*)
2. Don't pretend \_\_\_\_\_ what you aren't. (*be*)
3. I persuaded my brother-in-law not \_\_\_\_\_ that old car. (*buy*)
4. Annie denied \_\_\_\_\_ the brick through the window. (*throw*)
5. My father expects me \_\_\_\_\_ high marks in school. (*get*)
6. According to the sign on the restaurant door, all diners are required \_\_\_\_\_ shirts and shoes. (*wear*)
7. We are planning \_\_\_\_\_ several historical sites in Moscow. (*visit*)
8. There appears \_\_\_\_\_ no way to change our reservation for the play at this late date. (*be*)
9. For some strange reason, I keep \_\_\_\_\_ today is Saturday. (*think*)
10. All of the members agreed \_\_\_\_\_ the emergency meeting. (*attend*)
11. I've arranged \_\_\_\_\_ work early tomorrow. (*leave*)
12. Even though Anna had never cut anyone's hair before, she readily consented \_\_\_\_\_ her husband's hair. (*cut*)
13. Mary decided \_\_\_\_\_ her friend's critical remarks. (*ignore*)
14. My roommate says I have a terrible voice, so I stopped \_\_\_\_\_ in the shower. (*sing*)
15. Did the doctor mention \_\_\_\_\_ any foods in particular? (*avoid*)
16. The cashier always remembers \_\_\_\_\_ the money in her cash register each day before she leaves work. (*count*)
17. Let's hurry! We must finish \_\_\_\_\_ the office before 3:00 today. (*paint*)
18. The student with the highest average deserves \_\_\_\_\_ an "A." (*get*)
19. I appreciate your \_\_\_\_\_ for my dinner. I'll buy next time. (*pay*)
20. The physically handicapped child struggled \_\_\_\_\_ up with the other children on the playground, but she couldn't. (*keep*)
21. Janice misses \_\_\_\_\_ walks with her father in the evening now that she has moved away from home. (*take*)
22. The customs official demanded \_\_\_\_\_ what was inside the gift-wrapped box. (*know*)
23. We've discussed \_\_\_\_\_ to New York in the fall, but I'm worried about our children having to adjust to a new school system and new friends. (*move*)
24. Children shouldn't be allowed \_\_\_\_\_ violent programs on TV (*watch*)
25. In a fit of anger, I ordered my neighbor \_\_\_\_\_ his mule off my property. (*keep*)

V. Complete the sentences with the correct form, gerund or infinitive, using the words in parentheses.

1. The doctor was forced \_\_\_\_\_ immediately to save the patient's life. (*operate*)
2. The newspaper hired Bill \_\_\_\_\_ pictures of the championship match between the two boxers. (*shoot*)
3. Most passengers dislike \_\_\_\_\_ to sit in small, uncomfortable seats on transoceanic flights. (*have*)
4. I chose \_\_\_\_\_ to Stanford University for my undergraduate studies. (*go*)
5. I must drive more carefully. I can't risk \_\_\_\_\_ another speeding ticket. (*get*)

6. Jack promised \_\_\_\_\_ to the meeting. (*come*)
7. The sign warns you not \_\_\_\_\_ right on a red light. (*turn*)
8. Did Dick mean \_\_\_\_\_ Sue about the surprise party, or did it slip out accidentally? (*tell*)
9. You must keep \_\_\_\_\_ on the computer until you understand how to use all of the programs. (*practice*)
10. Our class volunteered \_\_\_\_\_ the classroom during the maintenance workers' strike. (*clean*)
11. When you get through \_\_\_\_\_ the newspaper, I could use your help in the kitchen. (*read*)
12. I think we should delay \_\_\_\_\_ these reports to the main office. (*send*)
13. The judge demanded \_\_\_\_\_ the original document, not the photocopy. (*see*)
14. After hearing the weather report, I advise you not \_\_\_\_\_ skiing this afternoon. (*go*)
15. George is interested in \_\_\_\_\_ an art class. (*take*)
16. I was furious. I threatened never \_\_\_\_\_ to him again. (*speak*)
17. My parents appreciated \_\_\_\_\_ the thank-you note you sent them. (*receive*)
18. The committee is planning \_\_\_\_\_ next Friday. (*meet*)
19. If I don't leave on the 15th, I will miss \_\_\_\_\_ home in time for my mother's birthday party. (*get*)
20. I know you're anxious to get out of here and get back home, but you should seriously consider \_\_\_\_\_ in the hospital a few more days. (*stay*)
21. Alex refused \_\_\_\_\_ for his rude behavior. (*apologize*)
22. When I was in the army, I had to swear \_\_\_\_\_ my senior officers' orders. (*obey*)
23. I don't recall \_\_\_\_\_ your dictionary anywhere in the apartment. Maybe you left it in the classroom. (*see*)
24. Mrs. Lind required the children \_\_\_\_\_ off their muddy boots before they came into the house. (*take*)

VI. Choose the correct answer.

1. The groom anticipated \_\_\_\_ the wedding ceremony.  
A. enjoying            B. to enjoy
2. The department store agreed \_\_\_\_ back the damaged radio.  
A. taking            B. to take
3. Would the doctor mind \_\_\_\_ some time talking to me after the examination?  
A. spending    B. to spend
4. We miss \_\_\_\_ Professor Sanders in Asian history this quarter.  
A. having            B. to have
5. Dan failed \_\_\_\_ the firefighter's examination and was quite upset.  
A. passing            B. to pass
6. The travelers anticipated \_\_\_\_ safely at their destination.  
A. arriving            B. to arrive
7. She expects \_\_\_\_ her baby at the new hospital.  
A. delivering            B. to deliver
8. The bad weather caused us \_\_\_\_ our connecting flight to Rome.

- A. missing                      B. to miss  
9. We dislike \_\_\_\_\_ dinner at 9:00 p.m.  
A. eating                        B. to eat  
10. Most of the students completed \_\_\_\_\_ their research papers on time.  
A. writing                        B. to write  
11. My niece hopes \_\_\_\_\_ with me to Disneyland next April.  
A. traveling                      B. to travel  
13. Willy denied \_\_\_\_\_ a whole bag of chocolate chip cookies before lunch.  
A. eating                        B. to eat  
14. You must swear \_\_\_\_\_ the truth in a court of law.  
A. telling                         B. to tell  
15. I didn't mean \_\_\_\_\_ him.  
A. interrupting                 B. to interrupt

VII. Create sentences from the following verb combinations. Select any tense for the first verb, but use a gerund or infinitive for the second verb. Include a (PRO)NOUN OBJECT if necessary.

**EXAMPLES:** **can't afford + buy** → I can't afford to buy a new car for at least another year.

**dare + dive** → My friends dared me to dive into the pool.

1. keep + play \_\_\_\_\_
2. direct + save \_\_\_\_\_
3. regret + tell \_\_\_\_\_
4. manage + get \_\_\_\_\_
5. remind + take \_\_\_\_\_
6. be used to + stay \_\_\_\_\_
7. persuade + not buy \_\_\_\_\_
8. mention + give \_\_\_\_\_
9. suggest + go \_\_\_\_\_
10. can't imagine + travel \_\_\_\_\_
11. recommend + take \_\_\_\_\_
12. convince + go + swim \_\_\_\_\_
13. miss + be \_\_\_\_\_
14. not appreciate + hear \_\_\_\_\_
15. fail + tell \_\_\_\_\_
16. resent + be \_\_\_\_\_
17. resist + eat \_\_\_\_\_
18. claim + know \_\_\_\_\_
19. deserve + get \_\_\_\_\_

- 20. not recall + say \_\_\_\_\_
- 21. look forward to + see \_\_\_\_\_
- 22. beg + give \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. agree + hire + work \_\_\_\_\_
- 24. remember + tell + be \_\_\_\_\_
- 25. urge + practice + speak \_\_\_\_\_
- 26. tell + keep + try + call \_\_\_\_\_

VIII. Restate the sentences by changing a sentence with a gerund as the subject to a sentence with **it + an infinitive phrase**, and vice-versa.

**EXAMPLE 1:** Teasing animals is cruel. - It is cruel to tease animals.

**EXAMPLE 2:** It wasn't difficult to find their house. - Finding their house wasn't difficult.

1. Voting in every election is important.

2. It was exciting to meet the king and queen.

\_\_\_\_\_

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3. Hearing the other side of the story would be interesting.

4. It is unusual to see Joan awake early in the morning.

5. If you know how, it is easy to float in the water for a long time.

6. Mastering a second language takes time and patience.

7. Driving to Atlanta will take us ten hours.

8. It takes courage to dive into the sea from a high cliff.