

Exercises on Gerunds

Decide whether to use a gerund or an infinitive.

1. Simon is a very bad guy. He tricked me into _____ (to believe) him every word he said.
2. My mum keeps _____ (to remind) me of _____ (to do) my homework.
3. Microsoft failed _____ (to comply¹) with EU law and had to pay a heavy penalty.
4. Aren't I lucky _____ (to have) such a cute girlfriend?
5. I love _____ (to ride) horses but I can't afford _____ (to buy) one.
6. My friends are welcome _____ (to see) me whenever they want to.
7. I strictly oppose _____ (to water) the lawn while there's a drought².
8. Aren't you afraid of _____ (to go) to Florida by airplane? After all, the trip takes at least nine hours.
9. "Oh Baby refrain from _____ (to break) my heart"
10. She really seems to not care about _____ (to see) her sisters.
11. After ten years of _____ (to be) a habitual³ smoker, I finally stopped _____ (to smoke) completely.
12. Is Bosnia worth _____ (to die) for? Is there anything worth _____ (to die) for at all?
13. I'm dying _____ (to get) one of those new iPhones 3G.
14. Aren't you curious _____ (to know) what happened last night?
15. Can you believe this: My boyfriend of three years has finally asked me _____ (to be) his wife.
16. I was up and out this morning. I can't even remember _____ (to lock) the door.
17. My fiancée⁴ was overjoyed _____ (to hear) me ask her the magic words: "Will you marry me?"
18. After _____ (to pass) the New Jersey Turnpike, we had to stop _____ (to get) some water.
19. Our sergeant⁵ commanded us _____ (to retreat).
20. I'd prefer not _____ (to do) my homework right now. As always, I prefer _____ (to play) World of Warcraft on my PC.
21. I'm so tired of _____ (to clean) my room. Why can't we just agree _____ (to go out) and have fun?
22. Please remember _____ (to lock) the cage after _____ (to feed) the bird.
23. When _____ (to drive) on the highway, I usually have to stop _____ (to buy) some

1 to comply with sth: etwas befolgen

2 drought: Dürre, Trockenperiode

3 habitual: Gewohnheits-

4 fiancée: Verlobte; vgl. fiancé - Verlobter

5 sergeant: Sergeant (Unteroffizier)

cigarettes. I really need to stop _____ (to smoke).

Keys to the Exercises

In order to find out the correct form, please refer to a monolingual dictionary like the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary..

1. believing
2. reminding / doing
3. to comply
4. having
5. riding / to buy
→ to ride horses wäre auch okay, allerdings unterstreicht das Gerundium das Hobby
6. to see
7. watering
8. going
9. breaking
10. seeing
11. being / smoking
→ to stop doing sth – aufhören, etwas zu tun
→ to stop to do sth – anhalten, um etwas zu tun (z.B. beim Auto Fahren)
12. dying / dying
13. to get
14. to know
15. to be
16. locking
to remember doing – sich erinnern, etwas getan zu haben
to remember to do – daran denken, etwas zu tun
17. to hear
18. passing / to get (vgl. 11)
19. to retreat
20. to do / playing
→ as always deutet auf ein Hobby bzw. eine regelmäßige Handlung hin, daher ist das gerund hier angebracht
21. cleaning / to go out
22. to lock / feeding
→ vgl. 16
23. driving / to buy / smoking
→ vgl. 11