Gerunds & infinitives — free worksheet

Write the -ing form or the infinitive of the verb in brackets.

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1. Mastering -ing Forms and Infinitives

Gerunds & infinitives · Everyday situations across work, study, travel, health, technology, relationships and money

For questions 1–8, complete each sentence with the -ing form or the infinitive, with or without to, of the verb in brackets.

1. After years of putting it off, she finally finished _____ (clear) out the cluttered garage.

2. The manager promised _____ (address) the team's concerns about overtime pay at the next meeting.

3. Her tutor advised her _____ (submit) the essay a week before the deadline so she'd have time to revise it.

4. The long queue at passport control made us _____ (wait) for almost two hours before we could board.

5. You'd better _____ (see) a doctor about that cough before it gets any worse.

6. Many users complain about _____ (receive) constant notifications from apps they barely use.

7. It would be thoughtful of him _____ (bring) flowers to his wife on their anniversary next week.

8. On her way home, she stopped _____ (withdraw) some cash from the ATM before the shops closed for the day.

2. Gerunds and Infinitives in Everyday Situations

Gerunds & infinitives · Gerunds and infinitives across everyday life, work, study, travel, health, technology, relationships and money

For questions 1–8, complete each sentence with the -ing form or the infinitive, with or without to, of the verb in brackets.

1. After years of commuting by car, she finally gave up _____ (drive) to work and started cycling instead.

2. The manager agreed _____ (extend) the deadline after the team explained the delay.

3. The tutor advised the students _____ (revise) their essays before submitting them.

4. At the airport, the security staff made every passenger _____ (remove) their shoes before going through the scanner.

5. You've had a bad cough for weeks now - you'd better _____ (see) a doctor soon.

6. Instead of _____ (type) long messages, he just records short voice notes and sends them.

7. He was eager _____ (meet) his girlfriend's parents for the first time, even though he felt nervous about it.

8. He stopped _____ (check) his bank balance every day once he realised it only made him anxious.

Answer Key

1. Mastering -ing Forms and Infinitives

1. clearing
2. to address
3. to submit
4. wait
5. see
6. receiving
7. to bring
8. to withdraw

1. Finish is always followed by the -ing form when it means to complete an activity, so 'finished clearing' is correct; finish never takes a to-infinitive.

2. Promise is followed by a to-infinitive to talk about a future commitment, so 'promised to address' is the only correct form.

3. Advise someone to do something follows the verb + object + to-infinitive pattern, so 'advised her to submit' is required.

4. Make someone do something is followed by the infinitive without to, so 'made us wait' is correct; a to-infinitive would be wrong after make.

5. Had better is always followed by the bare infinitive to give strong advice, so 'you'd better see' is correct.

6. A verb following a preposition such as about must take the -ing form, so 'complain about receiving' is correct.

7. After it + would be + adjective + of + person, the to-infinitive is used to say what someone should do; since the anniversary is next week, only the simple infinitive 'to bring' fits, not a perfect form referring to a completed action.

8. Stop + to-infinitive means pausing one activity in order to do something else, as she interrupts her journey home to get cash; stop + -ing would mean she gave up the habit of withdrawing money altogether, which makes no sense alongside 'before the shops closed', a clear one-time purpose.

2. Gerunds and Infinitives in Everyday Situations

1. driving
2. to extend
3. to revise
4. remove
5. see
6. typing
7. to meet
8. checking

1. "Give up" is followed by the -ing form when it means stopping a habit; "to drive" is never used after this phrasal verb.

2. "Agree" is always followed by a to-infinitive to state what someone consents to do.

3. When "advise" has an object (the students), it is followed by a to-infinitive to show what they are told to do.

4. "Make + object" is followed by the infinitive without to, showing someone is forced to do something.

5. "Had better" is a fixed expression for strong advice and is always followed by the bare infinitive.

6. "Instead of" acts like a preposition, and prepositions are always followed by the -ing form, never a to-infinitive.

7. Adjectives expressing attitude, such as "eager", are followed by a to-infinitive to show what someone wants to do; a perfect infinitive would wrongly suggest the meeting had already happened before the feeling, which contradicts "for the first time".

8. "Stop + -ing" means ending a habit, which matches the idea of no longer checking the balance; "stop + to-infinitive" would mean pausing in order to do something else.

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