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Basics. Verb + -ing Form: Gerunds After Common Verbs

Medium | B1 | Intermediate | B2 | Upper Intermediate | Gerund | Infinitive | Modal verb | Phrasal verb | Preposition | Present tense | Questions | Verb | Simple tense | Collocations

1. Piece together the eccentric inventor's diary entry about his latest failed experiment.

I clearly remember _____ the blue chemical, but when the machine started smoking, I had to stop _____ the engine, and my assistant suggested _____ a fire extinguisher immediately.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** to add
- **B)** added
- **C)** adding

Blank 2

- **A)** to run
- **B)** ran
- **C)** running

Blank 3

- **A)** to use
- **B)** used
- **C)** using

2. Choose the correct word to complete the barista's remarkably polite request.

Excuse me, sir, but would you mind _____ your pet iguana off the espresso machine?

Select one.

- **A)** to take
- **B)** take
- **C)** taking
- **D)** taken

3. Help the office manager draft a remarkably passive-aggressive email to the team by selecting the correct verb forms.

Dear Team,
Would you mind _____ your own coffee mugs for once? Furthermore, I strongly suggest _____ the microwave before it develops a brand new ecosystem. We really cannot postpone _____ an exterminator if you all keep leaving sandwich crumbs on your keyboards.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** washing
- **B)** to wash
- **C)** wash

Blank 2

- **A)** cleaning
- **B)** to clean
- **C)** clean

Blank 3

- **A)** calling
- **B)** to call
- **C)** call

4. Help Agent 00-Oops complete his mission report by dragging the correct words into the blanks.

To avoid _____ the laser alarms, I practiced _____ on my tiptoes, but I couldn't risk _____ near the villain's sleeping guard dogs.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** trigger
- **B)** to trigger
- **C)** triggering

Blank 2

- **A)** walk
- **B)** to walk
- **C)** walking

Blank 3

- **A)** sneeze
- **B)** to sneeze
- **C)** sneezing

5. Complete the backpacker's postcard home by choosing the correct verb forms. Pay close attention to the context!

I vividly remember _____ my passport, but it's nowhere to be found! After hours on the road, we finally stopped _____ because the rental car started making a terrifying noise. To fix it, I tried _____ the engine with a wrench, but that just made the bumper fall off!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** packing
- **B)** to pack
- **C)** pack

Blank 2

- **A)** driving
- **B)** to drive
- **C)** drive

Blank 3

- **A)** hitting
- **B)** to hit
- **C)** hit

6. Vlad the Vampire is updating his modern lifestyle blog. Select ALL the sentences where he correctly uses a verb followed by the *-ing* form to describe his new habits.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I have finally quit drinking human blood.
- **B)** I really miss to fly around the city as a bat.
- **C)** I am seriously considering becoming a vegetarian.
- **D)** I still can't stand smelling garlic bread at Italian restaurants.
- **E)** I can't afford buying that expensive SPF 100 sunscreen.

7. Complete the roommate's helpful (but slightly sarcastic) advice.

Since Sir Fluffington keeps knocking over your water glass, I strongly suggest _____ a cup with a heavy lid.

Select one.

- **A)** to buy
- **B)** buying
- **C)** buy
- **D)** bought

8. Help the exhausted college student complain about their terrible roommate. Select ALL the sentences that correctly use a verb followed by an *-ing* form (gerund).

Select all that apply.

- **A)** He completely avoids washing the dishes.
- **B)** He always refuses cleaning his side of the room.
- **C)** He denies eating my leftover pizza, even with cheese on his face.
- **D)** He promised taking out the trash yesterday but forgot.
- **E)** He keeps borrowing my laptop without asking.

9. Help the secret agent write his mission report without sounding entirely incompetent.

To maintain my cover at the fancy villain gala, I tried to avoid _____ on the incredibly long capes of the other guests.

Select one.

- **A)** stepping
- **B)** to step
- **C)** step
- **D)** stepped

10. Complete the passive-aggressive note left by a frustrated roommate by choosing the right verb forms.

I am looking forward to _____ up to a clean kitchen tomorrow, so I insist on _____ the chores fairly, and I won't apologize for _____ the TV remote until you wash your dishes.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** wake
- **B)** woken
- **C)** waking

Blank 2

- **A)** divide
- **B)** divided
- **C)** dividing

Blank 3

- **A)** hide
- **B)** hid
- **C)** hiding

11. The world's clumsiest bank robber is testifying in court. Select ALL the statements where he correctly uses a verb (or verb + preposition) followed by the *-ing* form.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I apologize for dropping the bags of cash on my foot.
- **B)** I admit to forget where I parked the getaway car.
- **C)** I really don't mind spending a few months in a quiet jail cell.
- **D)** I look forward to meeting my new cellmate.
- **E)** I suddenly decided confessing everything to the security guard.

12. Help the detective complete the transcript of the world's worst art thief by choosing the correct verb forms.

The suspect finally admitted _____ the famous diamond from the museum. However, he strongly denied _____ anything about the missing security guard's uniform. He claimed he just couldn't resist _____ the shiny red security lasers on his way out because they looked "pretty."

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** stealing
- **B)** to steal
- **C)** steal

Blank 2

A) knowing
B) to know
C) know

Blank 3

A) touching
B) to touch
C) touch