

Read these paragraphs and explain the meaning of the underlined idioms.

Patrick and Edward met at school. They liked each other instantly. Patrick could count on one hand the number of people he had ever felt a liking for. He was a poor kid whose family lived from hand to mouth. He grew up wearing hand me down clothes and he was putty in the hands of anybody who would pay attention to him. When both his parents were out of work and their was little food in the house, Patrick would go cap in hands to the school headmaster and ask for a small loan to buy something to eat. He hated to beg, but was forced to take matters into his own hands. After years with no steady employment, Patrick's parents threw up their hands and surrendered to poverty.

Edward, on the other hand, was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He was waited on hand and foot from his earliest days. Because everyone was done for him, Edward frequently had time on his hands. He and Patrick would sometimes cut school and spend time together. Edward knew Patrick was hard up and would give him a hand when he could. But Edward's dad didn't approve. He told Edward that giving hand-outs to "people like that" would only encourage them to be lazy. He suspected Patrick didn't lift a finger to support himself. Edward's father looked forward to handing over the reins of his business to Edward in a few years. He knew that Edward would always have the upper hand over Patrick and he wasn't sure their friendship could ever be on an equal footing.

Discuss:

1. Do you think it's possible for a rich person and a poor person to be good friends?
2. Jimmy Dean said poverty was the greatest motivator in his life. What does he mean?
3. If you couldn't make enough to support your family in your home country, would you consider permanently immigrating to another country?
4. Do you think laws are applied equally to rich and poor alike?
5. If you struck it rich, what would you do first?

GRAMMAR

Gerunds are verbs being used in the sentence as nouns. Infinitives are the "to" form of a verb. In some sentences you can use either a gerund or an infinitive.

EX: Finding a job is my first priority. My first priority is to find a job.

But in many sentences, you can use EITHER a gerund or an infinitive, but not both. Some of these sentences are correct, some are incorrect. If the sentence is incorrect it, replace the underlined words to make it correct.

1. There are many apps to learn English these days.
2. I drank a lot of coffee for staying awake.
3. She moved to America for learning English.

4. We met for deciding who to nominate for chairman.
5. He went to the professor's office to find out his grade point average.
6. We went to the computer lab for printing out our resumes.
7. This computer software is to edit photos.
8. Be quiet! A library is to study.
9. I whistled for getting her attention.
10. He engaged a tutor to translate the lecture into Farsi.
11. The professor reached over for focusing the projector.
12. Kevin changed his major to improve his chances of getting a job.
13. I gave her a key for preventing her from being locked out.
14. He was invited to the class for showing the results of his experiment.
15. The directions are provided in English and Spanish for preventing misunderstandings.