

FUMC ESL 1-16-2025 Lesson For All Levels

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, WE WILL **NOT** HAVE ESL CLASS. THAT IS MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY WHICH IS A HOLIDAY FOR MANY.

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. Tell about someone you would like to meet now.

Grammar Quiz: Review of Gerund and Infinitives

Gerunds are verbs that function as nouns in the sentence. They end in ING. EX: I remember **meeting** your mother. MEETING is a verb functioning as a noun.

Infinitives are the base form of a verb. EX: to sing, to hear, to talk I would like **to meet** your mother.

Whether you use a gerund or infinitive depends on the main verb in the sentence.

In many sentences, you can use either a gerund or an infinitive. But certain verbs have to be followed by one or the other. For example, we say, "I enjoy **drawing**," never "I enjoy to draw." We don't ever use an infinitive after the verb **enjoy**. We do say "I decided **to draw** a giraffe." We don't say, I decided drawing. We don't use an infinitive after **decide**.

Test yourself with the quiz below.

1-They offered _____ our cats while we were gone.

- a-to feed
- b-feeding

2-She admitted _____ the purse after they showed her the security camera.

- a-to steal
- b-stealing

3-Jim hopes _____ English while he is visiting the U.S.

- a-to study
- b-studying

4-We promised _____ them move in to the new house.

- a-to help
- b-helping

5-He plans _____ to London after leaving here.

- a-to fly
- b-flying

6-My daughter finished _____ the house before I returned.

- a-to clean
- b-cleaning

7-The boy denied _____ a dog.

- a-to have
- b-having

8-The fence failed _____ the dog in their yard.

- a-to keep
- b-keeping

9-We can't really afford _____ a new house.

a-to buy

b-buying

10-We considered _____ a new house, but decided we couldn't afford it.

a-to buy

b-buying

11-The guide said _____ the train.

a-to take

b-taking

12-Please leave me alone. I'm trying _____.

a-to concentrate

b-concentrating

13-The windows are very dirty. They need _____.

a-to clean

b-cleaning

14-The couple were talking loudly. I couldn't help _____ what they said.

a-to overhear

b-overhearing

(Note: Overhear means to hear something you weren't trying to hear. For example, if your neighbors are having a loud argument, you might hear it in your apartment. You didn't plan to hear it or want to hear it. But it was impossible not to hear it.)

15-I'm running behind. Can you help me _____ dinner ready.

a-to get

b-getting

(In some sentences, like the one above, we don't say the "to". EX: Can you help me get dinner ready. In this example get means prepare.)

16-Rand says he will probably stay in Mexico City for another year. He likes _____ there.

a-to live

b-living

17-As strange as it seems, I enjoy _____ the dishes.

a-to wash

b-washing

18-I'm not ready yet. Would you mind _____ a few minutes?

a-to wait

b-waiting

19-Working downtown means _____ home an hour before work begins.

a-to leave

b-leaving

20-I don't remember _____ the door.

a-to lock

b-locking

21-He asked us _____ the door when we left.

- a-to lock
- b-locking

22-The man spoke with a heavy accent. I pretended _____ him.

- a-to understand
- b-understanding

Idioms with Gerunds and Infinitives

1-We discovered our builder was **cutting corners** when he built our house. He used cheap building materials and cut down the size of the plumbing fixtures to save money. We were not happy to discover this.

Cutting Corners: doing something cheaply or poorly to save money.
What would you do if you discovered workers were cutting corners.

2- Leslie is excited about her wedding, but Peter is **getting cold feet** as the date approaches.

Getting Cold Feet: getting nervous about something that will soon happen.
What is something you or someone you know got cold feet about.

3-We complained to the company about the cheap materials used in construction, but they said it wasn't their fault. They blamed the supply company that provided cheap materials. We couldn't get anyone to say they were responsible. They were all **passing the buck**.

Have you ever had an experience like this?

4-I left my bicycle to be repaired, but they kept saying it wasn't ready because they couldn't get the right parts. **Taking the bull by the horns**, I found the needed parts online and ordered them. When they arrived, I took them to the repair shop and demanded they fix my bike.

Taking the Bull by the Horns: Take a strong and direct way to solve a problem.
Are you the kind of person who takes the bull by the horns?

5-Jack explained to his family that he was taking a year off work to complete his college degree. The family would have **to tighten their belt** because there won't be any salary to live on.

Tighten the belt: cut back on expenses
Have you ever experienced a time when your family had to tighten their belt?

6-In tomorrow's lecture, our professor will be **touching on** new tax rules that have been recently enacted.

Touching on: to mention something
How do you feel about paying taxes? What do you think taxes should be used for?