

ArivArk General English Video Series

Infinitive, Gerund and Participle: Practice Questions

Group 2/2A Prelims: General English, Unit I Grammar

Real questions: TNPSC previous year questions (Group 2/2A Prelims 2025 official answers; Group 2 2022, 2024; Group 4 2025). Practice questions: ArivArk Academy.

Finite and non-finite verbs

Finite verb: changes with the tense and with the subject. He plays. They played.

Non-finite verb: never changes with the tense or the subject. He likes to play. They like to play. ("to play" stays the same.)

The three non-finite verbs: the infinitive, the gerund and the participle.

The forms at a glance

Form	Pattern	Works as	Example
To-infinitive	to + base verb (V1)	noun, or the purpose of an action	I want to learn English. She went out to buy milk.
Bare infinitive	base verb without to	after make, let, see, hear, watch; after helping verbs like can, must, will, should	She made me laugh. Let him go. You must go.
Gerund	verb + ing	noun: subject, object, or after a preposition	Swimming is a good exercise. He is fond of reading.
Compound gerund	having + V3 (after a preposition or a possessive)	noun, for an action already done	I heard of his having gained a prize.
Present participle	verb + ing	adjective: tells what a noun is doing	The barking dog kept the neighbours awake all night.
Past participle	V3 (third form)	adjective: tells what happened to a noun	The broken window. The fallen leaves.

Form	Pattern	Works as	Example
Perfect participle	having + V3 (opening the sentence)	shows an action that finished first	Having arrived early, Pami had time to review her notes.

Three rules to remember

After to, always the base verb. She is bold enough to take decisions (right). She is bold enough to taking decisions (wrong).

After a preposition (of, at, in, for, about, without ...), a verb is always a gerund. He is fond of reading. She is good at drawing.

A gerund can be the subject. Waiting seemed foolish when decisive action was required.

How to tell them apart

Gerund or present participle? Both end in -ing.

The name of an action = gerund. Walking is good for health. (What is good? Walking, the action.)

It describes a noun = participle. Look at the sleeping baby. (Which baby? The sleeping baby.)

Compound gerund or perfect participle? Both use having + V3. After a preposition or his / her / their (of his having gained) it is a compound gerund. Opening the sentence and showing the first of two actions (Having arrived early, Pami ...) it is a perfect participle.

Verb + gerund or verb + infinitive?

Verb + gerund	Verb + infinitive	Either, same meaning
enjoy, avoid, finish, mind, keep, practise, suggest, deny, admit, consider, give up, look forward to	want, decide, hope, plan, agree, refuse, promise, expect, wish, learn, afford	begin, start, like, love, prefer, continue
I enjoy reading. He avoided meeting us.	I hope to win. We decided to leave.	They began playing. / They began to play.

The meaning changes: stop, remember, forget, try

Verb	+ gerund	+ to-infinitive
stop	no longer do it: I stopped talking to him.	stop in order to do it: I stopped to talk to him.
remember	remember an earlier action: I remember locking the door.	not forget a duty: Remember to lock the door.
forget	forget an earlier action: I will never forget meeting her.	fail to do it: I forgot to call him.
try	do it as a test: Try adding some salt.	make an effort: I tried to lift the box.

Common mistakes

- ing after to.** Wrong: I want to going. Right: I want to go.
- A base verb after a preposition.** Wrong: He is fond of read. Right: He is fond of reading.
- to after make.** Wrong: She made me to laugh. Right: She made me laugh.

TNPSC PYQs

1. Which one of the following has a correct infinitive? (a) She is bold enough to take decisions (b) She is bold enough in accepting challenges (c) She is bold but afraid of snakes (d) She is bold enough to taking decisions (Group 2/2A Prelims 2025, official answer)

- (A) (a) (B) (b)
(C) (c) (D) (d)

Answer: (A) (a). After to comes the base verb: to take. "to taking" is wrong.

2. Choose the correct answer for the underlined words. I heard of his having gained a prize. (Group 2/2A Prelims 2025, official answer)

- (A) Gerund (B) Compound Gerund
(C) Infinitive (D) Participle

Answer: (B) Compound Gerund. It follows the preposition "of", so it is a gerund; having + gained makes it a compound gerund.

3. Identify the participle in the given sentence: "The barking dog kept the neighbours awake all night". (Group 2/2A Prelims 2025, official answer)

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| (A) barking | (B) the |
| (C) kept | (D) awake |

Answer: (A) barking. Which dog? The barking dog. barking describes the noun, so it is a present participle.

4. Fill in the blank with suitable Gerund form of the verb. ____ seemed foolish when decisive action was required. (Group 2, 2022)

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| (A) Wait | (B) Waiting |
| (C) To wait | (D) To be wait |

Answer: (B) Waiting. The subject must be a noun; the gerund Waiting works as a noun.

5. Which of the following sentences have gerunds? (a) They began playing (b) They began to play (c) We prefer to take tea (d) We prefer taking tea (Group 4, 2025)

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| (A) (a), (b) | (B) (b), (c) |
| (C) (a), (c) | (D) (a), (d) |

Answer: (D) (a), (d). playing and taking are gerunds; to play and to take are infinitives.

6. Which of the following is suitable to complete the meaning? I stopped ____ to him. (Group 2, 2024)

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| (A) to talk | (B) talking |
| (C) having talked | (D) being talked |

Answer: (B) talking. stop + gerund = no longer do it: I stopped talking to him.

Practice MCQs

1. I love painting. The word "painting" is a

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| (A) to-infinitive | (B) gerund |
| (C) past participle | (D) present participle |

2. She went out to buy milk. The words "to buy" are a

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| (A) to-infinitive | (B) present participle |
| (C) bare infinitive | (D) gerund |

3. Look at the flying bird. The word "flying" is a

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| (A) gerund | (B) past participle |
| (C) to-infinitive | (D) present participle |

4. He is good at ____.

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| (A) to sing | (B) sung |
| (C) singing | (D) sing |

5. The stolen car was found. The word "stolen" is a

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| (A) bare infinitive | (B) past participle |
| (C) gerund | (D) present participle |

6. Let me ____.

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| (A) try | (B) to try |
| (C) tried | (D) trying |

7. He avoided ____ the teacher.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (A) meeting | (B) meet |
| (C) met | (D) to meet |

8. I want ____ English.

(A) learn

(B) learning

(C) to learn

(D) learnt

9. She made me ____.

(A) to laugh

(B) laugh

(C) laughed

(D) laughing

10. ____ is a good exercise.

(A) Swum

(B) Swims

(C) Swim

(D) Swimming

11. We decided ____ early.

(A) left

(B) leave

(C) leaving

(D) to leave

12. They finished ____ the wall.

(A) to paint

(B) painting

(C) painted

(D) paint

13. I was thirsty, so I stopped ____ some water.

(A) to drink

(B) drinking

(C) drunk

(D) drink

14. He stopped ____ ten years ago, and his health is better now.

(A) smoked

(B) to smoke

(C) smoke

(D) smoking

15. Remember ____ the door before you leave.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| (A) to lock | (B) locked |
| (C) locking | (D) lock |

16. Having finished his work, Ravi went home. The words "Having finished" are a

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| (A) perfect participle | (B) compound gerund |
| (C) past participle | (D) to-infinitive |

17. She is proud of her son's having won the match. The words "having won" are a

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| (A) perfect participle | (B) compound gerund |
| (C) present participle | (D) to-infinitive |

18. Which sentence is correct?

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (A) He is fond of to read. | (B) He is fond to reading. |
| (C) He is fond of reading. | (D) He is fond of read. |

19. You must ____ now.

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| (A) to go | (B) go |
| (C) going | (D) gone |

20. Which sentence has a gerund?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (A) She wants to walk. | (B) Walking is good for health. |
| (C) Look at the sleeping baby. | (D) The children are sleeping. |

Answer key: 1 B, 2 A, 3 D, 4 C, 5 B, 6 A, 7 A, 8 C, 9 B, 10 D, 11 D, 12 B, 13 A, 14 D, 15 A, 16 A, 17 B, 18 C, 19 B, 20 B

Why? Short explanations

1 (B) It is the name of an action, the object of love.

2 (A) to + base verb, showing the purpose.

3 (D) Which bird? The flying bird: it describes the noun.

4 (C) After the preposition at, use a gerund.

5 (B) V3 describing the car.

6 (A) let + bare infinitive (no to).

7 (A) avoid is always followed by a gerund.

8 (C) want + to-infinitive.

9 (B) make + bare infinitive (no to).

10 (D) The subject must work as a noun: the gerund Swimming.

11 (D) decide + to-infinitive.

12 (B) finish + gerund.

13 (A) stop + to-infinitive = stop in order to do something.

14 (D) stop + gerund = no longer do it.

15 (A) remember + to-infinitive = do not forget a duty.

16 (A) having + V3 opening the sentence, the first of two actions.

17 (B) After the preposition of and a possessive: compound gerund.

18 (C) Preposition + gerund.

19 (B) After a helping verb like must, use the bare infinitive.

20 (B) Walking is the name of an action, the subject.