

Some nouns, adjectives and verbs are followed by ing forms. Some are followed by infinitives. This grammar exercise tests your ability to use these structures correctly.

Fill in the blanks.

1. I hate the idea old.

- to get
- of getting
- of get

The noun idea is followed by a preposition + ing form.

2. The thought never bothered him.

- to fail
- of failing
- to failing

The noun thought is followed by a preposition + ing form.

3. She is very clever problems.

- in solving
- to solve
- at solving

The adjective clever is followed by the preposition at + ing form.

4. Have you got anything flies?

- to kill
- for killing
- for to kill

After something and anything, we use for + ing form to explain the purpose of an object.

5. You can't eat meat without an animal.

to kill

killing

of killing

After a preposition, we use an ing form.

6. You must always check the oil before the vehicle.

start

to start

starting

After a preposition, we use an ing form.

7. I am not used to in a major city.

live

living

Either could be used here

When to is a preposition, it is followed by an ing form. A common expression in which this happens is 'be used to'.

8. Do you object to on weekends?

work

working

Either could be used here

In the expression object to, 'to' is a preposition. We use ing forms after prepositions.

9. Be careful when you talk to him. He is inclined to his temper.

lose

losing

Either could be used here

The verb inclined is followed by a to-infinitive.

10. We are waiting for the guests

- to arrive
- to arriving
- arriving

The verb wait is followed by for + object + infinitive.

11. We regret passengers that the flight to Amsterdam has been cancelled.

- to inform
- informing
- to informing

Regret is followed by an infinitive in announcements of bad news.

12. I regret out of college. It was a big blunder.

- to drop
- to dropping
- dropping

Regret is followed by an ing form to refer back to the past.

PLAY AGAIN !

Answers

1. I hate the idea of getting old.
2. The thought of failing never bothered him.
3. She is very clever at solving problems.
4. Have you got anything for killing flies?
5. You can't eat meat without killing an animal.
6. You must always check the oil before starting the vehicle.
7. I am not used to living in a major city.

8. Do you object to working on weekends?
9. Be careful when you talk to him. He is inclined to lose his temper.
10. We are waiting for the guests to arrive.
11. We regret to inform passengers that the flight to Amsterdam has been cancelled.
12. I regret dropping out of college. It was a big blunder.