

## XVI THE INFINITIVE AND THE "-ING" FORM

### *Put in the correct forms of the verbs.*

When we were at school as children we were (*make/wear*) **made to wear** indoor shoes inside the school building. The teachers would never (*let us/wear*) **let us wear** our outdoor shoes at all and they (*make us/change*) **made us change** in the changing rooms from the moment we entered the building. I'd never known teachers (*be*) **(to) be** more strict about any other school rule. The trouble was that my shoes really (*make me/suffer*) **made me suffer** because they were so tight. ("*Let/expand*) **Let's expand** our shoes!" a fellow sufferer suggested. He had had a brilliant idea. We put plastic bags inside our shoes and poured water into the bags. We sealed the bags carefully and put our shoes into the freezer. Of course the ice (*make the shoes/expand*) **made the shoes expand** and they were a pleasure to wear. This clever idea (*help me/get*) **helped me (to) get** through my schooldays with less discomfort and I have never forgotten it!

### *Put in the correct forms of the infinitive or -ing.*

In a split second, when no one was paying attention, the two prisoners escaped from the back of the police van. They were handcuffed to each other. It was minutes before a policeman saw them (*run*) **running** down the street. "We will follow," two policemen said. "Have the driver (*bring*) **bring** the van to the end of the road. Tell him (*not let*) **not to let** them get away. If we are not careful, we will have the whole neighbourhood (*complain*) **complaining** that we have been careless." The prisoners were still running side by side. The policemen saw them (*race*) **race/racing** up the hill and (*disappear*) **disappear/disappearing** round a corner. "We will never catch them now!" one of them said. "I told you (*not leave*) **not to leave** them unattended." The prisoners were running at top speed. Suddenly, they saw a lamp post in front of them "Go left! Go right!" they each shouted at the same time. They ran on either side of the lamp post. It just took time for the police (*find*) **to find** them, lying on the pavement, unhurt, dazed, and with silly grins on their faces.

### *Put in the correct forms of the verbs.*

When I was a young man, working in Malaya, my boss gave me a difficult job to do. The roof of his house had become infested with rats and he (*want/I get rid of*) **wanted me to get rid of** them for him. I tried everything: rat poison, cats, even a mongoose, but I (*fail/move*) **failed to move** them. Then a friend of mine (*advise/I use*) **advised me to use** a python. I (*considered this/be*) **considered this to be** my last chance and (*agree/try*) **agreed to try** it. My friend brought me a box in which he had trapped a young python, about six feet long. We (*manage/get*) **managed to get** the box into the roof and then released the python. The effect was amazing! The rats disappeared in no time! It (*prove/be*) **proved to be** a wonderful solution. But then we did not know (*what/do*) **what to do** with the python. I could not (*bear/shoot*) **bear to shoot** this superb creature. It (*take/six of us an hour/get*) **took six of us an hour to get** it into the box and then we returned it to the jungle.

### *Supply the correct to-infinitive combinations.*

Mrs Johns, a 75-year-old widow, woke up with a start. Peering into the darkness, she was astonished (*see*) **to see** a man in her room. It was easy (*see*) **to see** he was a burglar. At first, she was too afraid (*move*) **to move**. Then she plucked up her courage and said, "We must talk

about this over a cup of tea. Would you be so kind (*help me*) **as to help me** downstairs?" To her surprise, the man meekly obeyed. He was eager (*help*) **to help** and anxious (*please*) **to please** the old lady. He prepared the tea and said he was sorry (*have disturbed*) **to have disturbed** her. He was too frightened (*run away*) **to run away**. After a cup of tea, he said he would be glad (*give*) **to give** Mrs Johns his name and address and left empty-handed. Of course, Mrs Johns informed the police, who commended her for bravery. Later, during the trial, the judge said it was his duty (*send*) **to send** the man to prison, describing him as the most incompetent burglar he had ever met!

***Put in the correct forms.***

The art of (*cook*) **cooking** requires the use of garlic. Of course, the (*eat*) **eating** of garlic is not generally approved of. (*Work*) **Working** beside someone who has eaten garlic is as bad as (*sit*) **sitting** beside someone who smokes. But while (*smoke*) **smoking** is definitely bad for you, there is no doubt that (*eat*) **eating** garlic is good for the health. We are likely to see more "No (*smoke*) **smoking**" signs, but we won't see any "No (*breathe*) **breathing**" signs for garlic eaters! (*Cultivate*) **Cultivating** and (*export*) **exporting** garlic has become big business now that so many people use it for (*flavour*) **flavouring** meat and (*add*) **adding** to different dishes. People often buy it when they do the (*shop*) **shopping**. You don't have to deny (*use*) **using** it or (*have/eat*) **having eaten** it. (*Be*) **Being** a garlic eater is something to be proud of and shows you enjoy good (*live*) **living**. The story of garlic is a breathtaking success!

***Supply the correct forms (to-infinitive or -ing) of the verbs in brackets.***

- 1a I remember **visiting** Paris when I was very young. (visit)
- 1b Please remember **to lock** the door on your way out. (lock)
- 1c Did you remember **to phone** Jim last night? (phone)
- 2a I shall never forget **being** taken to see the Moscow State Circus. (be)
- 2b Don't forget **to find out** how many are coming on Saturday. (find out)
- 2c I forgot **to go** to the chemist's on my way home. (go)
- 3a We all tried **to stop** him, but he just wouldn't listen to any of us. (stop)
- 3b If you want to stop coughing, why don't you try **drinking** some water? (drink)
- 4a She got annoyed because her husband stopped **to look** in every shop window. (look)
- 4b Just stop **talking** and listen for a moment. (talk)
- 5a If we hadn't turned the music off they'd have gone on **dancing** till morning. (dance)
- 5b She got a degree in Physics and then went on **to take** a course in Applied Maths. (take)
- 6a I regret **to tell** you that there's been an accident. (tell)
- 6b He regretted **staying** in the same job for so long. (stay)

***Put in the correct forms.***

Postmen have stopped (*deliver*) **delivering** letters to the new houses in our area. They object to the letterboxes on the front doors. They hate (*push*) **pushing** letters through them, because the letterboxes snap shut. If you try (*push*) **to push** a letter through, you can't get your fingers out! You try (*push*) **pushing** a letter into one of these boxes and see what happens! You quickly regret (*have*) **having** tried! They have been designed to stop burglars (*open*) **opening** your front door from the outside, but postmen dread (*use*) **using** them as well. The painful condition known as Letterbox Finger is just as bad as Housemaid's Knee or Tennis Elbow!