Main uses of the gerund and the infinitive with "to"

The Gerund (doing)

A. After certain verbs like *enjoy, hate, finish, mind, avoid, suggest, can't help, spend/waste* (time), *fancy, keep*...:
Did you enjoy reading that book?
I hate washing up.

B. When the subject of a sentence is a verb:
Meeting new people is exciting.
Being able to speak other languages will help you find a job.

C. After prepositions:
Are you afraid of flying?
I'm worried about not finding a job soon

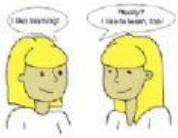
D. With certain phrases and expressions:
I look forward to hearing from you.
It's a very good film. It's worth watching it.
There's no point in talking to her. She won't listen to you.

The Infinitive (to do)

A. After certain verbs like *would like, plan, try, offer, decide, forget, expect, hope, want, begin, choose, learn*...:
I'm planning to have a party on my birthday.
They decided to get married.

B. After many adjectives:
She's happy to live in Germany.
John is afraid to lose the football match.
It's important to be punctual.

Note: Some verbs can be followed by both gerund and infinitive, generally with the same meaning:
I like hiking / to hike
I love swimming / to swim
I prefer going out / to go out at the weekend



Practice

Choose a verb from the box to complete each sentence and write it in the correct form (gerund or infinitive).

communicate	read	go	memorize	see	be	speak
help	come	walk	work	answer	graduate	
disturb	leave	laugh	arrive	paint	study	do

1. Dan enjoys _____ science fiction books.
2. Cheryl suggested _____ a movie after work.
3. Where did you learn _____ French?
4. Do you mind _____ me translate this letter?
5. The question was too difficult _____.
6. If he keeps _____ to work late, he's going to get fired!
7. Debbie plans _____ sociology abroad next year.
8. I hope _____ from college next year.
9. The models practiced _____ with a book balanced on their heads.
10. _____ yoga made me more flexible.
11. He can't help _____ rude to people he doesn't like.
12. Frank suggested _____ our house yellow.
13. Stephanie disliked _____ in front of a computer all day.
14. I don't fancy _____ out tonight.
15. She told the joke without _____.
16. I don't want anyone _____ until all the work is done.
17. She managed _____ with them even though she didn't speak their language.
18. I'm fed up with _____ phrasal verbs.
19. Jackie tends _____ late on Mondays, but the boss doesn't seem to care.
20. I'm sorry _____ you.

LIVEWORKSHEETS