

B2.1

Unit 1

1. Gerund or Infinitive – Fill in the gap using the correct form of the verb given.

1. David enjoys_____the guitar. (**play**)
2. I don't mind_____the cleaning. (**do**)
3. It isn't easy_____all my family's birthdays. (**remember**)
4. James is really good at_____. (**sing**)
5. She waited_____to a sales assistant. (**speak**)
6. Mary encouraged her children_____healthy food. (**eat**)
7. The library is easy_____. (**find**)
8. Mike is interested in_____a vet. (**become**)
9. He is saving money_____on holiday. (**go**)
10. When I met her I couldn't help_____at her. (**smile**)
11. My favorite hobby is_____tennis. (**play**)
12. My mother helped me_____to cook. (**learn**)
13. I'm fed up of_____salad every day. (**eat**)
14. Sandra got Steve_____her car. (**wash**)
15. I don't feel like_____maths today. (**study**)

2. Complete the text using the correct form of the verb in brackets (gerund or to + infinitive).

Farmer Smith and his wife vs the fox

Farmer Smith met Mary when he was just a young man. He couldn't help 1. _____(**fall**) in love with her immediately and asked her to marry him. She said yes even though she knew it would mean 2. _____(**get**) up early to milk the cows for the rest of her life. "Love means never 3. _____(**have**) to get up early to milk the cows", said Farmer Smith, and explained that he

would continue 4. ____ (milk) the cows early in the morning so Mary could sleep late everyday.

Everything went well until they tried 5. _____ (increase) their profits by buying some chickens. The first night, a fox ate one of the chickens. Farmer Smith decided 6. _____ (construct) a fence to protect the chickens. But the ground was too hard so he couldn't. He tried 7. _____ (use) an axe to break the ground but it was much too hard. So he went to the local shop and tried 8. _____ (buy) a gun. But he didn't have any identification so he couldn't buy one. He tried 9. _____ (borrow) one from his neighbours but they were all worried about the fox too. "I regret not 10. _____ (buy) one when I had that rabbit problem", he told Mary.

So Mary went to the shop and bought a gun. That night she tried 11. _____ (stop) the fox. At first she tried 12. _____ (frighten) the fox by shooting into the air but it didn't work. So she tried 13. _____ (hit) the fox but she missed. She called her husband and he ran after the fox to try 14. _____ (catch) it but he wasn't quick enough. They tried 15. _____ (shout) at the fox and they tried 16. _____ (throw) things at it and they tried 17. _____ (leave) other food for the fox but nothing worked.

Soon they had only 1 chicken left. They tried 18. _____ (ask) their neighbours for help and one of their neighbours told them to try 19. _____ (put) tiger dung on the ground. So they went to the local zoo to try 20. _____ (buy) some tiger dung.

They managed 21. _____ (obtain) some dung, which they put on the ground around the chicken house. They never saw the fox again.

3. Read the article. Some extracts have been removed from this text. Insert them back into the right gap.

Gap year case study: learning Spanish in South America

Felix Hamer, 21, learnt Spanish before travelling around South America for ten weeks. He is now studying Human Sciences at Oxford.

Despite getting an A in Spanish at GCSE I could barely string a sentence together by the time I left school. To get back up to speed I spent two months living with a Spanish family in Tarifa while attending a local language school. Making this effort to crack Spanish really paid off on my travels

around South America. People were more friendly as I spoke their language and I could ask our hosts, such as the alpaca farmers in Peru, about their lives instead of just smiling at them and taking photographs.

As I had never travelled outside Europe on my own, I decided to start by joining a Dragoman overland trip from Peru to Argentina (dragoman.com). The bus tour cost £1,170 for 32 days, although the final bill - after adding meals and excursions - came to twice that.

1. _____ A Dragoman bus doing the journey in reverse was full of pensioners with just two 18-year-old Swedish guys.

Checking the demographic of a tour like this before booking is essential.

The other advantage was that it optimised the time we actually spent in places and our drivers knew all the best activities: playing gaucho in Cordoba, star-gazing in the Atacama Desert, and mountain-biking along the infamous Death Road in Bolivia.

2. _____ Within two minutes of pitching up at the hostel in Mendoza, I joined up with an Irish man and two Swedish girls on a cycle tour of the vineyards.

In terms of advice, I would recommend some structure at the start of your trip: either join a tour as I did or take up a temporary job teaching or volunteering. But don't plan the whole thing so you can incorporate feedback from other travellers and take advantage of your solo status.

3. _____ In Argentina it is definitely worth paying up for a first-class flat-bed seat on an overnight bus. It costs a few pounds more than staying in a hostel but you get a good night's sleep so you can make the best of your first day in your destination.

Lastly, take a backpack. I opted for a large cumbersome duffel bag. 4. _____

A. Leaving the bus and going truly solo in Buenos Aires was a shock to the system. But this time I stayed in hostels and met people easily.

- B. When someone tried to snatch my hand luggage at a bus station (unsuccessfully), I realised they had targeted me as I couldn't chase them while keeping hold of my duffel bag.
- C. Joining a tour was the right decision. I had felt a little out of my depth in Cuzco before joining the tour and, by staying in a hotel rather than a hostel, I only met people in passing. I got lucky with the bus as around 15 of us - Brits, Americans, Australians and Scandinavians - were below the age of 30.
- D. It is far easier to make friends when travelling solo and building in flexibility means you can tag along on other people's activities at a moment's notice.

Article adapted from The Daily Telegraph

4. Choose the right word from the box for each gap.

exchange program	backpacking	A-levels	immerse	hang out
no-brainer	gorgeous	landscapes	abroad	Internship

Ever since I started high school, I wanted to go on some kind of (1) _____ to experience life in a different country. Unfortunately, there was none in my school. So, when my parents gave me the option to take a gap year or to do an (2) _____ for the summer at my uncle's office, it was a (3) _____ for me.

So, with my parents already on board, all I had to do was getting a good mark on my (4) _____ so that I could fully enjoy my time (5) _____. And so I did.

I decided to book my flights and in a couple weeks I'll be (6) _____ around Europe; I have always been mesmerized by their (7) _____ cities and amazing (8) _____, and now I will have the chance to (9) _____ myself in their culture and hopefully (10) _____ with some locals, too!

5. Have you ever thought about taking a gap year? Why? Why not? Write an essay about the advantages and disadvantages of taking a gap year. (150-200 words)