UNIT 7
L'infinitif & le gérondif / The media

1 - Irregular Verbs.

Choose the correct verb and put it into the correct tense. Each verb can only be used once. Answers are provided in the Key at the end of the unit.

Sit ; speak ; speed ; spell ; spill ; spin ; split ; spoil ; spread ; spring ; stick ; stride ; strike ; strive ; swear ; swing ; take.

1. What _____ me in this article was the lack of objectivity of the columnist.
2. In front of the growing threat, the allies _____ their war preparations.
3. I was _____ in the congestion for hours and _____ in my car for most of the day.
4. The milk the demonstrators spilt in protest was entirely _____ . It's a shame.
5. The president was _____ in in January. He _____ the oath and pledged to serve his country.
6. The news of the minister's resignation _____ like wildfire. Little else was _____ of for several days.
7. The Prime Minister _____ to play down the affair and _____ to the defence of his beleaguered colleague.
8. After the divorce, their assets were _____ in even parts.
9. The dancer turned around, _____ and _____ . He then elegantly _____ out of the stage.
10. How did you say your name was_____ ?

2.a – Grammar : L'infinitif & le gérondif.

Comparez : (1) I'd like **to dance.** (infinitif , V+to)
(2) I like danc**ing.** (gérondif, V+ Ing)

L'infinitif (1) renvoie à une action qui est souvent projetée dans l'avenir alors que **le gérondif** (2) renvoie à une activité vue dans son déroulement ou présentée comme connue par l'énonciateur.

Certains verbes ou expressions peuvent indifféremment être suivis de l'infinitif ou du gérondif, d'autres pas.
It started raining / It started to rain.
He continued talking / He continued to talk.
My hair needs cutting / My hair needs to be cut etc.

☞ Don't **forget to post** the letter (in the future) => infinitif = action projetée.
☞ I remember post**ing** the letter (in the past) => gérondif = action réalisée.

☞ He stopped **to smoke =** il s'est arrêté *pour / dans l'intention de* fumer.
☞ He stopped smok**ing** = il s'est arrêté *de* fumer.

✓ **<u>Prépositions et gérondif</u>**

☞ I look forward to meeting you
☞ What about / How about having lunch ?
She was accused of / charged with stealing the money.
She was interested in buying the sofa.
I have trouble (in) understanding you *etc.*

💣 Ne pas confondre :
He **is used to** gett**ing** up (être habitué à) at 7. He **got / was used to** gett**ing** up (s'habituer à) at 7.
He **used to** get up at 7. Avant, il se réveillait à 7h.

✓ **<u>Nominalisations en Ing</u>**

I don't **like** <u>him</u> com**ing** home that late. Je n'apprécie pas <u>le fait qu</u>'il rentre à la maison si tard.
I'**m worried about** <u>him</u> not eat**ing**. Je m'inquiète <u>du fait qu</u>'il ne mange pas. 💣 à la place de la négation.

✓ **<u>Structures causatives</u>**

☞ I <u>made</u> him <u>do</u> his homework. Je lui ai fait faire ses devoirs.
☞ I <u>had</u> him <u>repair</u> my computer. Je lui ai fait réparer mon ordinateur.
I <u>let</u> him go with her. Je l'ai laissé partir avec elle.
I <u>got</u> him <u>to do</u> it. Je lui ai fait faire (l'ai amené à). I <u>forced</u> her <u>to sell</u> it. Je l'ai forcée à le vendre.

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✓ **Structures résultatives**

☞ They threatened him out of testifying. Ils l'ont convaincu par la menace de ne pas témoigner.
☞ They blackmailed him into signing the check. Ils l'ont forcé par le chantage à signer le chèque.
The mother sang the child to sleep. La mère endormit l'enfant en chantant.

2.b – Exercises : Choisissez la réponse qui convient.

1. The government launched a campaign to dissuade_____ .
   a/ that young people smoke.
   b/ young people smoke.
   c/ young people from smoking.
   d/ young people to smoke.

2. She was the youngest woman ever_____ in Parliament.
   a/ sitting
   b/ sit
   c/ to sit
   d/ to sitting

3. He was congratulated_____ his exams.
   a/ in passing
   b/ for passing
   c/ to pass
   d/ for pass

4. Why not _____ and_____?
   a/ relaxing / enjoying
   b/ relax / enjoy
   c/ relaxing / enjoy
   d/ to relax / to enjoy

5. That groundbreaking discovery may hold the key_____ the universe.
   a/ to our understanding
   b/ in our understanding
   c/ to us understand
   d/ that we understand

6. Peter's new job will mean_____ in America for a while.
   a/ to live
   b/ living
   c/ in living
   d/ to living

7. ' It's getting stuffy in here'
   ' Try_____ the window and see if you can get some fresh air '
   a/ to open
   b/ open
   c/ to opening
   d/ opening

8. He_____ me_____ John.
   a/ remembered / calling
   b/ reminded / calling
   c/ remembered / to call
   d/ reminded / to call

9. I now regret_____ from my job. It was a great place to work after all and my colleagues were lovely .
   a/ resigning
   b/ to resign
   c/ resign
   d/ to resigning

10. I_____ tennis when I lived there.
    a/ am used to play
    b/ was used to play
    c/ used to playing
    d/ used to play

3-a - Key Issues : THE MEDIA (LES MÉDIAS).

§1 The daily press is an institution in the Anglo-Saxon world. *The Sun* is the most widely read British **tabloid**. Daily papers are more popular than weekly magazines.
In the US the freedom of the press is guaranteed by the **First Amendment** of the Constitution.
Television has of course taken an important part in the media. Is **the Internet** now going to be the overwhelming means of information ? *Yet* the Internet might not be as reliable as the traditional media. *True*, information is only a click of the mouse away, but it may amount to gossip and rumours. *For instance*, the online encyclopaedia Wikipedia is written by the users themselves; *interestingly enough* it has been estimated rather reliable by a recent study.

A piece of news can be devastating to careers or policies and needs to be carefully checked before the paper decides to **break the news** or uncover a scandal. Or else the newspaper can be **sued** for libel.
Ever since the tragic death of the Princess Diana, the popular press and the paparazzi have been accused of harassing and harming celebrities.

§2 **Broadsheets** (quality papers) provide reliable information and have been famous for being a counter-power to governments. In the U.S., *The Washington Post* launched the Watergate scandal thanks to a tradition of investigative journalism (1972). Journalistic independence allowed the reporters to **expose the truth**. Such a historical event led to calling

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