

2a Choose the correct alternative.

Efficient revision

It's incredible (a) thinking/to think that we do hundreds of exams at school and university, but many students never pay much attention to how they revise. Here are just some ideas to help you (b) revising/to revise efficiently.

Some people think that (c) revising/to revise is a question of (d) sitting/to sit down for hours and hours with their notes. It isn't. It's essential (e) taking/to take frequent (but short!) breaks. This way our mind stays alert and active. Just (f) reading and reading/to read and read is not very sensible either. After a while we think we know everything and we no longer pay attention to what we are reading. Instead of (g) doing/to do this, read and then stop and answer questions. Why? (h) Seeing/To see if you have really understood what you have read.

That's one reason why it can be a really good idea to work with other students. Some people don't mind (i) revising/to revise alone but some people hate it. The good news for those people is that (j) discussing/ to discuss past exam questions with other students can really help (k) checking/to check that you know what you're doing. And when you don't understand something, don't be too frightened (l) asking/to ask other people for help.

Lastly, don't forget (m) keeping/to keep healthy. Eat good food. Find enough time (n) sleeping and taking/ to sleep and take exercise. When your brain stops functioning, do sport, go (o) cycling/to cycle, move your body. You know what the Romans said – a healthy mind in a healthy body!

2b What do you think of the ideas in this text?

It's a good idea to take lots of short breaks. I can only concentrate for about an hour, then I need to stop revising.

I can't revise in a group. I get distracted. I prefer to study alone.

Exercise is really important to me. I can study better after I've done some sport or gone for a run.

3a Complete the sentences with the gerund or infinitive form of the verbs given.

- Plan your time at the start to make sure that you have enough time (finish) the exam.
- (Start) the exam before you have read all the questions can be a bad idea.
- We suggest (take) more than one pen or pencil into the exam.
- Don't write too fast or carelessly. You risk (create) a bad impression.
- Think about (leave) yourself time (check) your work before you hand it in.
- Avoid (write) your opinion unless the question specifically asks for it.
- When a question involves (answer) two or more different parts, make sure you answer them all.
- Check that you know how many questions you need (complete) because sometimes not all questions are obligatory.
- Attempt (answer) all the questions that are obligatory.

3b Work with a partner. Think of more good advice for taking exams.

4 Find eight mistakes with gerunds or infinitives in this text.

Five years ago we were doing a chemistry exam at school when the teacher found a boy who was looking at his notes during the exam. The boy, whose name was Oliver, admitted to cheat. Naturally, the teacher forced him to resit the exam the week after. Nobody expected Oliver passing. I was good at chemistry and I liked Oliver so I decided to help him by study with him. We spent the next week studying really hard. Oliver didn't feel very confident about passing. I suggested to study together the day before the exam and we agreed meeting in the evening. Then we also arranged to meet on the morning before the exam. While we were walking to school, I asked him questions. By this time he knew all the answers and was feeling good. The exam began at nine o'clock and Oliver appeared finding the exam easy. In fact, he was one of the first to finish. He managed passing the exam with 90%. He was really grateful and asked me if there was anything he could give me as a present. I just asked him to promise not cheating again. I'm really proud of Oliver because now he's at university, studying chemistry!

5 Complete the sentences with a verb in the gerund or infinitive form. Make the sentences true for you.

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| 1 I can't stand ... | 5 I relax at the weekend by ... |
| 2 I don't mind ... | 6 I'm really interested in ... |
| 3 I sometimes go ... | 7 For a really good holiday, I suggest ... |
| 4 I think it's good ... | 8 Next year I really want ... |

6 SPEAKING Work in groups. Compare your sentences in 5. Are any of your sentences the same?

7a SPEAKING Work with a partner. Complete the questions with a verb in the gerund or infinitive form.

- Do you enjoy in the evening?
- When you sleep, do you ever dream of?
- Have you ever thought of?
- Do you find it difficult?
- Have you ever considered?
- Do you think that you are brave enough?
- Would you like to be the first person?
- Do you avoid at parties?