Exercises on Gerunds

Decide whether to use a gerund or an infinitive.

1. Simon is a very bad guy. He tricked me into ______ (to believe) him every word he said.
2. My mum keeps ______ (to remind) me of ______ (to do) my homework.
3. Microsoft failed ______ (to comply) with EU law and had to pay a heavy penalty.
4. Aren't I lucky ______ (to have) such a cute girlfriend?
5. I love ______ (to ride) horses but I can't afford ______ (to buy) one.
6. My friends are welcome ______ (to see) me whenever they want to.
7. I strictly oppose ______ (to water) the lawn while there's a drought.
8. Aren't you afraid of ______ (to go) to Florida by airplane? After all, the trip takes at least nine hours.
9. “Oh Baby refrain from ______ (to break) my heart”
10. She really seems to not care about ______ (to see) her sisters.
11. After ten years of ______ (to be) a habitual smoker, I finally stopped ______ (to smoke) completely.
12. Is Bosnia worth ______ (to die) for? Is there anything worth ______ (to die) for at all?
13. I'm dying ______ (to get) one of those new iPhones 3G.
14. Aren't you curious ______ (to know) what happened last night?
15. Can you believe this: My boyfriend of three years has finally asked me ______ (to be) his wife.
16. I was up and out this morning. I can't even remember ______ (to lock) the door.
17. My fiancée ______ (to hear) me ask her the magic words: “Will you marry me?”
18. After ______ (to pass) the New Jersey Turnpike, we had to stop ______ (to get) some water.
19. Our sergeant ______ (to command) us ______ (to retreat).
20. I'd prefer not ______ (to do) my homework right now. As always, I prefer ______ (to play) World of Warcraft on my PC.
21. I'm so tired of ______ (to clean) my room. Why can't we just agree ______ (to go out) and have fun?
22. Please remember ______ (to lock) the cage after ______ (to feed) the bird.
23. When ______ (to drive) on the highway, I usually have to stop ______ (to buy) some

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1 to comply with sth: etwas befolgen
2 drought: Dürre, Trockenperiode
3 habitual: Gewohnheits-
4 fiancée: Verlobte; vgl. fiancé - Verlobter
5 sergeant: Sergeant (Unteroffizier)
cigarettes. I really need to stop _____ (to smoke).

**Keys to the Exercises**

*In order to find out the correct form, please refer to a monolingual dictionary like the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary.*

1. believing
2. reminding / doing
3. to comply
4. having
5. riding / to buy
   → to ride horses wäre auch okay, allerdings unterstreicht das Gerundium das Hobby
6. to see
7. watering
8. going
9. breaking
10. seeing
11. being / smoking
    → to stop doing sth – aufhören, etwas zu tun
    → to stop to do sth – anhalten, um etwas zu tun (z.B. beim Auto Fahren)
12. dying / dying
13. to get
14. to know
15. to be
16. locking
   to remember doing – sich erinnern, etwas getan zu haben
   to remember to do – daran denken, etwas zu tun
17. to hear
18. passing / to get (vgl. 11)
19. to retreat
20. to do / playing
    → as always deutet auf ein Hobby bzw. eine regelmäßige Handlung hin, daher ist das
    gerund hier angebracht
21. cleaning / to go out
22. to lock / feeding
    → vgl. 16
23. driving / to buy / smoking
    → vgl. 11