



Lesson B2-18 | High Intermediate | CEFR B1

By + Gerund Clauses

Use the words in the Grammar Challenge to complete the gaps.

Conversation 1

Student: Ms. Wilson, how can I get a good grade on this paper?

Teacher: First, you need to write a good outline.

Student: OK, I think I can do that.

Teacher: By _____ that, you will give the paper structure.

Student: OK, what else?

Teacher: You should support your ideas by _____ supporting data.

Student: How do I do that?

Teacher: You can do that by _____ for related articles online.

Student: OK, that should be easy enough.

Teacher: Also, read the rubric. By _____ yourself with the details, you will know what to do.

Student: OK, thanks for your help.

Conversation 2

Man: Hey, what are you reading?

Woman: I'm reading how cows contribute to climate change.

Man: Cows! How do they do that?

Woman: By _____ methane gas into the environment.

Man: But, they're cows! I don't see how they can do that.

Woman: They release gas by burping. It says cows burp a lot.

Man: By burping? How strange.

Woman: It also says that farmers cause damage by _____ down trees to make farmland.

Man: Yeah, I've heard about that. Cutting down trees does damage by reducing how much trees can absorb CO2.

Woman: Yes, and deforestation is also a problem by _____ soil erosion.

Man: So, what can we do about it?

Woman: I suppose that we could help by eating less beef.

Man: Yeah, or we could help by _____ meat from local organic farms.

Woman: Sounds good. Time to put our best foot forward.

Man: Yes, and to put our money where our mouth is, literally.

Conversation 3

Quiz

1) The student can write a good paper _____.

- a) by using spell check
- b) by doing research
- c) by reading the rubric

2) Cows hurt the environment _____.

- a) by burping
- b) by releasing methane
- c) by eating trees

3) How is she learning a language?

- a) By using vocab apps
- b) By watching movies
- c) By reading captions

4) She says he can benefit from vegetarianism by _____.

- a) cooking at home
- b) opening himself up to new ideas
- c) eating protien rich foods

Grammar Challenge

Use the words below to complete each conversation.

Con #1	Con #2	Con #3	Con #4
searching	cutting	reading	doing so
doing	buying	watching	eating
familiarizing	releasing	not asking	changing
adding	causing	using	being

Speaking Challenge

Match the answers with the questions.

- 1) How did you lose all that weight?
- 2) How did you get an extension on your deadline?
- 3) What can I do to help?
- 4) Is there an easy way to improve my speaking?
- 5) Why do you ride a bike to work?

- (_) I got an extension by asking the professor nicely.
- (_) I lost 10 kilos by eating only vegetables and protein.
- (_) By doing that, I get some exercise and fresh air.
- (_) You can help by setting the table for dinner.
- (_) The best way to is by talking as much as you can.

What about you? Share your answers to the questions.

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Man: So, what are you doing?

Woman: I'm studying Japanese by _____ videos on Netflix.

Man: That's interesting, but it must be difficult.

Woman: It is, but I can follow along by _____ the captions.

Man: Oh, do you mean the English subtitles?

Woman: No, the captions. I hear it and read the Japanese text simultaneously. By doing so, I can catch a lot.

Man: That sounds like a good strategy. I should try that to learn French.

Woman: Oh, are you learning French?

Man: Yes, but just by _____ some vocabulary apps on my phone.

Woman: Well, you might learn more by checking out some video online. There's lots on Youtube.

Man: Or by using your Netflix account.

Woman: Not a chance. Nice try though.

Man: Well, no one ever got anything by _____.

Woman: True. I'll give you that.

Conversation 4

Woman: How do you like your food?

Man: It's good, but I'm not used to eating vegetarian food.

Woman: You should become vegetarian. There are many health benefits by _____.

Man: Yes, that's true, but I love eating meat. It tastes so good.

Woman: I understand, but by _____ your diet, you can explore lots of new dishes.

Man: Yeah, I know, but I work out a lot, and I am afraid that by giving up meat, I'll lose lots of key nutrients.

Woman: I assume you are referring to protein. Well, just by _____ beans and nuts you can get all the protein you need.

Man: Perhaps, but I also worry about missing out at social gatherings, like barbecues, picnics and parties.

Woman: Yes, I see your point, but by _____ a vegetarian, you open yourself to new social situations.

Man: Yeah, I guess you're right. I will give it some thought.

Woman: Take your time. Rome wasn't built in a day, as they say.



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Student: How do I do that?

Teacher: You can do that by **searching** for related articles online.

Student: OK, that should be easy enough.

Teacher: Also, read the rubric. By **familiarizing** yourself with the details, you will know what to do.

Student: OK, thanks for your help.

Conversation 2

Man: Hey, what are you reading?

Woman: I'm reading how cows contribute to climate change.

Man: Cows! How do they do that?

Woman: By **releasing** methane gas into the environment.

Man: But, they're cows! I don't see how they can do that.

Woman: They release gas by burping. It says cows burp a lot.

Man: By burping? How strange.

Woman: It also says that farmers cause damage by **cutting** down trees to make farmland.

Man: Yeah, I've heard about that. Cutting down trees does damage by reducing how much trees can absorb CO₂.

Woman: Yes, and deforestation is also a problem by **causing** soil erosion.

Man: So, what can we do about it?

Woman: I suppose that we could help by eating less beef.

Man: Yeah, or we could help by **buying** meat from local organic farms.

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Woman: I understand, but by **changing** your diet, you can explore lots of new dishes.

Man: Yeah, I know, but I work out a lot, and I am afraid that by giving up meat, I'll lose lots of key nutrients.

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