

4 USING THE PASSIVE FORM OF GERUNDS

Complete the following article by filling in the blanks with the passive form of gerunds made from the verbs given in parentheses. (Use the verb **be** in the passive gerunds.)

Soliciting business and money by telephone has become a common practice in the United States. The telephone calls often come during the dinner hour. But people usually don't appreciate being telephoned at home by strangers, especially while they are eating. They resent 1. (telephone) at that time with offers of opportunity to obtain merchandise, to contribute to a charity, or to invest money. 3. (Require) to respond politely to this kind of telephonic intrusion is too much for many people, who end up shouting rudely or slamming down the telephone. On the other hand, some people respond enthusiastically to the idea of 4. (have / choose) for these telephone offers. Because some offers are actually frauds, however, the importance of 5. (not / fool) by such offers must be emphasized. For example, if a solicitor says, "Your 6. (have / select) to participate in this offer is a unique opportunity. You must act quickly," the person should be extremely wary.

Here are some tips for dealing with telephone solicitations. Above all, you should avoid 7. (perceive) as gullible. If you want to invest money, you should know the company well; if not, you risk 8. (cheat). As long as you don't mind 9. (disturb) at home in the first place, take the time to ask the telephone solicitor pertinent questions. But you could also respond, as many other people do to the annoyance of 10. (have / solicit) by telephone too often: Just turn off your phone at dinnertime and enjoy a peaceful meal.