

Participle clauses

Participle clauses enable us to say information in a more economical way.

They are formed using present participles (going, reading, seeing, walking, etc.), past participles (gone, read, seen, walked, etc.) or perfect participles (having gone, having read, having seen, having walked, etc.).

******We can use participle clauses when the participle and the verb in the main clause have the same subject. For example,

Waiting for Ellie, I made some tea. (While I was waiting for Ellie, I made some tea.)

******Participle clauses do not have a specific tense. The tense is indicated by the verb in the main clause.

******Participle clauses are mainly used in written texts, particularly in a literary, academic or journalistic style.

1-Present participle clauses

Here are some common ways we use present participle clauses. Note that present participles have a similar meaning to active verbs.

To give the result of an action

The bomb exploded, destroying the building.

To give the reason for an action

Knowing she loved reading, Richard bought her a book.

To talk about an action that happened at the same time as another action

Standing in the queue, I realised I didn't have any money.

To add information about the subject of the main clause

Starting in the new year, the new policy bans cars in the city centre.

2-Past participle clauses

Here are some common ways that we use past participle clauses. Note that past participles normally have a passive meaning. With a similar meaning to an “if condition”. Used in this way, participles can make your writing more concise. (If you use participles in this way)

To give the reason for an action

Worried by the news, she called the hospital.

To add information about the subject of the main clause

Filled with pride, he walked towards the stage.

3-Perfect participle clauses

Perfect participle clauses show that the action they describe was finished before the action in the main clause. Perfect participles can be structured to make an active or passive meaning.

Examples:

****** Having got dressed, he slowly went downstairs.

****** Having finished their training, they will be fully qualified doctors.

****** Having been made redundant, she started looking for a new job.

4-Participle clauses after conjunctions and prepositions

It is also common for participle clauses, especially with -ing, to follow conjunctions and prepositions such as before, after, instead of, on, since, when, while and in spite of.

Examples:

- ** Before cooking, you should wash your hands.
- ** Instead of complaining about it, they should try doing something positive.
- ** On arriving at the hotel, he went to get changed.
- ** While packing her things, she thought about the last two years.
- ** In spite of having read the instructions twice, I still couldn't understand how to use it.

Test/ Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

1-___ by the changing information, they thought the plane was cancelled.

A-Confusing

B-Confused

C-Having confused

2- ___ at a low temperature, these jeans will keep their original colour for a long time.

A-Washing

B-Washed

C-Having washed

3-___ the paper, he saw the news about his hometown.

A-Reading

B-Read

C-Having read

4-___ by a local architect and artist, the house combines traditional materials with original design.

A-Building

B-Built

C-Having built

5-___ in India for two years, Kaleem could speak some Hindi.

A-Living

B-Lived

C-Having lived

6-___ in prisons throughout her twenties, she wrote her first play about life behind bars.

After working

B-Worked

C-Having been worked

7-___ through the woods, they found a bird with a broken wing.

A-Walking

B-Walked

C-Having walked

8-___ for the final interview, the candidates were asked to prepare a short presentation.

A-Selecting

B-Selected

C-Having been selected