

Non-Finite Clauses: Participle Clauses

FORM:

Present Participle Clause + Main Clause

Opening the front door, she invited the guests to come in.

(The present participle is used to describe an action that is happening at the same time as the action in the main clause.)

Past Participle Clause + Main Clause

Barely finished university, he got his first job in a bank.

(The past participle is used when the action in the participle clause happened before the action in the main clause.)

USE:

In **non-finite participle clauses**, the only verb is a participle. These clauses do not contain complete verbs with subjects and tenses. If a **participle clause** refers to the entire main clause, it can come before, after or in the middle of the main clause.

Smiling with joy, Marla walked up to the stage to accept her award.

Marla, smiling with joy, walked up to the stage to accept her award.

Marla walked up to the stage to accept her award, smiling with joy.

If the participle clause refers only to part of the main clause, it must be placed right after the information it describes. The meaning of these two sentences is different.

The young woman sitting in the chair asked the man to bring her a coffee.

The young woman asked the man sitting in the chair to bring her a coffee.

Participle clauses are usually reduced adverbial or relative (adjective) clauses.

To change an **adverb clause into a participle clause**, omit the subject of the adverb clause and the *be* verb. If there is no *be* verb, omit the subject of the adverb clause and change the verb to the *-ing* form.

Adverb Clause: I went to that restaurant while I was staying in Paris.

Participle Clause: I went to that restaurant while staying in Paris.

Adverb Clause: After he ate dinner, he washed the dishes.

Participle Clause: After eating dinner, he washed the dishes.

To change a **relative clause into a participle clause**, omit the relative pronoun and the *be* form of the verb. If there is no *be* verb, you can sometimes omit the relative pronoun and change the verb to the *-ing* form.

Relative Clause: She saw the little dog that was hidden in the corner.

Participle Clause: She saw the little dog hidden in the corner.

Relative Clause: Any students who plan to graduate should attend the meeting.

Participle Clause: Any students planning to graduate should attend the meeting.

The perfect form of a present participle (having + past participle) can also be used to show that an action took place **before** the event in the main clause.

Having eaten all his cake, the little boy started eating his sister's piece.

This sentence has the same meaning as the following two sentences:

= *The little boy ate all his cake. He started eating his sister's piece.*

The passive form can be used with present and past participles.

Being fired for no reason, Lucy is devastated.

Having been warned, Frank avoided the dangerous part of the city.

Present participle clauses can be the subject or the complement of another clause.

Starting a business is hard work. (subject)

The thing I dislike about my job is working on weekends. (complement)

Combine each pair of sentence into one, using PRESENT or PAST PARTICIPLE CLAUSES.

Example: He was a famous singer. He travelled a lot for his job.

Being a famous singer, he travelled a lot for his job.

1. The students had too much work. They were tired.

2. The pilot was trying hard to land the plane in the blizzard. He focused intently on the instrument panel.

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3. I am a doctor. I have many responsibilities.

4. Ellen was determined to succeed. She continued to study for the exam.

5. Jill was newly promoted to supervisor. She had to work very hard to learn the position.

6. I was reading the newspaper. I found an article about my favourite musician.
