

Participle clauses

FORM

Using the present participle

Walking to the shops, I bumped into an old friend.

Having walked to the shops, I started to buy the items on my list.

Using the past participle

Caught by the police, the gang confessed.

The subject of the participle clause must be the same as in the other half of the sentence.

Seeing him there, I waved.

Seeing him there, he waved to me.

USE

We use present participles (doing, watching, walking, etc.) to talk about actions happening at the same time.

Running to catch the bus, I twisted my ankle. = When I was running to catch the bus, I twisted my ankle.

We use the perfect form of present participles (*having done, having watched, having walked, etc.*) to say that this activity happened before the next activity in the sentence.

Having seen the weather forecast, we cancelled the excursion. = After we had seen the weather forecast, we cancelled the excursion.

We can also use participles to explain the reason for something.

Needing a rest, I sat down. = Because I needed a rest, I sat down.

We use past participles as an alternative to the passive.

Watched by millions, the programme was an immediate hit. = The programme was watched by millions and was an immediate hit.

Grammar revision

Participle clauses

/ 8 points

1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of these verbs.

1 _____ the email, she sent it.

2 The man _____ in the accident is making good progress in hospital.

3 When _____ a mobile phone in public, you should try not to disturb others.

4 _____ the money by my parents, I went to do the shopping.

eat • give • hurt • not know • practise • use
wash • write

5 breakfast, I brushed my teeth.

6 every day, you should become a guitarist one day.

7 the way, I think I may get lost.

8 by hand, this jumper should stay in perfect condition.

Participle clauses

1 Look at the sentences and answer the questions.

- a Known as the adrenalin capital of Africa, Victoria Falls is the ultimate destination for extreme sports enthusiasts.
- b Having just finished university, she wanted a big adventure.
- c Feeling as though she had been slapped all over and hardly able to breathe, Erin floated along.
- d Running out of air, and with her vision starting to fade, she managed to free the rope.
- e Tied to her bungee cord and with her ankles still strapped together, she was pulled downriver.
- f Being a positive person, Erin says she has never felt angry about what happened to her.

- 1 Which of the underlined participle clauses use the present participle and which use the past participle?
- 2 Which of the two types of participle clause gives a meaning similar to the passive?
- 3 Which tense do we use when one action happens before the other, *doing* or *having done*?
- 4 Is the subject of the participle clause usually the same as in the other half of the sentence?

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2 Choose the correct alternative. In one case, both alternatives are possible.

- 1 Damaged by the storm, the sailors/the boat managed to get back safely to the port.
- 2 Being/Been a good swimmer, she managed to get to the shore.
- 3 After meeting/Having met her, I wasn't surprised she managed to survive.
- 4 When climbing/having climbed, you must pay complete attention.
- 5 Written in true style, I really enjoyed this story/this story is one of my favourites.
- 6 Blaming/Blamed for the accident, the workers lost their jobs.

3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs given.

- 1 (walk) to work, I saw an accident.
- 2 After (learn) to dive, we went on holiday to the Red Sea.
- 3 (teach) to sail when she was a child, she crossed the Atlantic single-handed at the age of 20.
- 4 (learn) to ride a motorbike first, he started to drive a car soon after.
- 5 Since (qualify) as a doctor, she has gained lots of experience at this hospital.
- 6 (catch) in the storm, they took shelter.

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and six words, including the word given.

- 1 Because he knew little about animals, he had no idea about how to look after the dog.
Not, he had no idea about how to look after the dog. **MUCH**
- 2 When they had checked the weather forecast, they set out on their journey.
After the weather would be OK, they set off on their journey. **MAKING**
- 3 The car hit the skateboarder and they had to rush him to hospital.
....., the skateboarder had to be rushed to hospital. **BY**
- 4 The singer performed the song for the first time in 2005, but he wrote it in 2001.
The song, first, was written by the singer in 2001. **IN**
- 5 Being totally fearless, she loves extreme sports.
She loves extreme sports
- 6 His coach thought he would not be able to compete again because he thought there was no solution.
His coach,, thought he would not be able to compete again. **FEARING**
- 7 She couldn't drive fast because she couldn't see where she was going.
..... she was going, she couldn't drive fast. **BEING**
- 8 They offered Alex the chance to play and he said yes straight away.
Alex,, said yes straight away. **GIVEN**

(search)	for her gloves, she dug through the entire wardrobe.
(prepare)	by the chef himself, the dinner will be a real treat.
(sing)	by him, every song sounds just wonderful.
(whistle)	a song, she danced through the house with the mop.
(sit)	in the shade, we ate cake and drank coffee.
(leave)	the party too early, we couldn't see the fireworks anymore.
(finish)	her phone call, she went back to work.
(run)	to the bus stop, she lost her shoe.
(blind)	by the sun, the driver didn't see the stop sign.
(misuse)	as a refuse dump, the place became more and more shabby.
(park)	the car, we searched for the ticket machine.
(drink)	one litre of water, she really needed to go to the toilet.
(lose)	ten kilogrammes, Anne finally fit into her favourite dress.