

GRAMMAR: PARTICIPLE CLAUSES

2008/09

PARTICIPLE CLAUSES: Theory**1. Introduction**

E.g.: *Opening her eyes, the baby began to cry.* OR...

- ☛ *When she opened her eyes, the baby...*
- ☛ *The baby, who opened her eyes, began...*

E.g.: *Feeling tired, Louise went to bed early.* OR...

- ☛ *Because she was feeling tired, Louise...*
- ☛ *Louise, who was feeling tired, went...*

E.g.: *Impressed by Jeremy's work, the manager extended his contract for 5 more years.* OR...

- ☛ *As he was impressed by J's work, the manager...*
- ☛ *The manager, who was impressed by J's work, extended...*

Question 1:

What are "opening", "feeling", and "impressed" in the above sentences?

- ☛ *Opening/feeling* → present participle
- ☛ *Impressed* → past participle

Question 2:

What are "opening her eyes", "feeling tired", and "impressed by J's work"?

- ☛ Participle clauses

Question 3:

What is the meaning of these clauses with respect to the main sentences within which they are embedded?

- ☛ They have adverbial meaning: time, reason, result

Question 4:

What other types of clauses are they similar to?

- ☛ Non-defining relative clauses (only that these have a relative pronoun)

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Question 5:

Read the 3 sentences again and say...

- a) who's the subject of the participle clause:
 ➤ The baby/Louise/the manager (implied subject).
- b) who's the subject of the main clause:
 ➤ The baby/Louise/the manager (stated subject).

Now read this sentence:

E.g.: *Having wanted to drive a train all his life, this was an opportunity not to be missed.*

Question 6:

Is the subject of the participle clause stated in the main clause?

➤ NO

Question 7:

Are the subject of the participle clause and the subject of the main clause the same?

➤ NO

➤ THE USE OF THIS KIND OF CLAUSES INSTEAD OF CLAUSES BEGINNING WITH A CONJUNCTION (WHEN, BECAUSE, AS, ETC.) OR A NON-DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSE MAKES WHAT WE WRITE OR SAY **MORE FORMAL**.

2. When do we use participle clauses?

2.1. Participle clauses can replace "and" in sentences with two main (coordinated) clauses:

E.g.: *He sat there **waiting**. (= **and waited**)*

2.2. Participle clauses are used to avoid repetition and make a point more economically. They can describe:

TIME

- ✓ Events happening at the same time [present participle]

E.g.: *Drinking his coffee slowly, he thought about the problem.
Putting on a serious face, he began to tell the story.*

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Also, in written narrative, after quoted speech, to express what someone was doing while talking:

E.g.: 'Wait a minute', said Frank, *running through the door*.

✓ Events happening in rapid sequence [present participle]

E.g.: *Looking up, she saw someone approaching.*

Glancing over his shoulder, he could see the dog chasing him.

✓ Events happening with a longer time gap between them [perfect participle]

E.g.: *Having retired, he found himself with time on his hands.*

Having completed the book, he had a holiday.

✓ Other time relations, when used with an appropriate conjunction.

E.g.: *Before being shown around, we were welcomed by the principal.*

E.g.: *Wear protective gloves when using this equipment.*

E.g.: *After finishing his speech, he took a sip of water.*

E.g.: *On arriving, you will find someone waiting for you.*

E.g.: *While traveling to work, she usually reads a novel.*

E.g.: *She has been much happier since changing schools.*

REASON AND RESULT

E.g.: *Not having had any breakfast, I was very hungry.*

E.g.: *She became a local celebrity as a result of having appeared once on television.*

Note: State verbs such as *be, have, know, live* can be used in participle clauses expressing reason/result.

E.g.: *Being a kind man, he agreed to help.*

CONCESSION

E.g.: *We intend to go despite having been advised against it.*

CONDITION

E.g.: *Left to follow his own inclinations, he would do no work at all.*

3. The subject in participle clauses

If the subject in a participle clause is unstated, we assume it is the same as the subject of the main clause. If the subject of the main clause is different from that of the main clause, then it must be stated.

E.g.: *The weather being perfect, we decided to go for a swim.*

Otherwise, the result is known as a 'dangling participle' —i.e. the participle clause has no subject. This is wrong.

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E.g.: ~~Kicking with all his strength, the ball went straight into the goal.~~

4. Participle clauses and relative clauses**4.1. -ing PARTICIPLE**

-ing participle clauses can replace both defining and non-defining relative clauses with an active verb:

E.g.: *A new road has been built, which bypasses the town.*

E.g.: *A new road has been built, **bypassing** the town.*

4.2. -ed PARTICIPLE

When the relative clause contains a passive verb, both the relative pronoun and the auxiliary *be* can be omitted:

E.g.: *The area (which was) **chosen** for development was near the river.*

When the relative clause contains only a relative pronoun and the verb *be*, both may be omitted:

E.g.: *The townspeople, (who were) **tired** of traffic pollution, decided to take action.*

5. 'ing' or 'having + past participle'?

5.1. 'Having + past participle' emphasizes that something is completed before the action in the main clause begins.

E.g.: *Taking off his shoes / Having taken off his shoes, Ray walked into the house.*

5.2. 'Having + past participle' instead of 'ing' is used when the action described is relatively long compared with the one described in the main clause.

E.g. *Having driven five hours to the meeting, John learned that it had been called off.*

Follow the links below for more explanations about the use of participles:

<http://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/grammar/partizipien.htm>

http://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/grammar/participles_form.htm

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PARTICIPLE CLAUSES: Practice**Rewrite the following sentences using participle clauses.**

1. Fishermen who seasonally attended to their dry fishery on the eastern Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland represented the extent of the English presence in North America for more than three-quarters of a century after Caboto's disappointing voyages.
2. But with England's rise as a great sea power, which was heralded by Sir Francis Drake's voyage around the world from 1577 to 1581, came a renewed interest in northern discovery.
3. As he explored this "strait" for nearly a month, he presumed that he was passing through the gap between the northern coastlines of American and Asia.
4. Because they had incurred the wrath of the local Native peoples and they knew that it was late August, Frobisher decided that it would be prudent to return to England.
5. Because these discoveries generated a great excitement in the nation, Queen Elizabeth I was persuaded to provide three ships and a crew of 120 for a second voyage in 1577.

Follow the links below for more practice on participle clauses:<http://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/participles/exercises?13>http://www.carmenlu.com/fifth/grammar/participle_cl5.htmlhttp://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/structures/participles_phrases.htmhttp://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/structures/participles_sentences.htmhttp://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/structures/past_participle.htmhttp://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/structures/present_participle.htm

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Keys:

1. Fishermen personally attending to their dry fishery on the eastern Avalon Peninsula...
2. But with England's rise as a great sea power, heralded by Sir Francis Drake's voyage around the world..., came...
3. Having explored this 'strait' for nearly a month, ...
4. Having incurred the wrath of the local Native peoples and knowing that it was late August, Frobisher...
5. The great excitement generated by these discoveries in the nation persuaded Queen Elizabeth I to...