

PARTICIPLE CLAUSES

The present participle active (-ing) is used to make a statement where the subject is omitted because it is the same as the subject of the main clause.

1 Cause and effect; the participle clause, which states the cause, normally comes first: *Realising the mountain top was covered in mist, we decided to turn back.*

(= Because we realised ...)

2 Description of the subject of the main clause; the participle clause normally comes second: *The volunteers arrived at the clinic feeling a little nervous.*

3 Two simultaneous events with the same subject; the participle clause normally comes second: *The woman hurried after her dog, calling to him to come back.*

4 One event happening during another; the longer event is in the participle clause, which normally comes second: *The new volunteer hurt himself (while) playing football.*

The perfect participle, active (having -ed) is used to show that the event of the participle clause happened first. The clauses can be in either order: *Having eaten all the food it could find in the camp, the bear wandered away.*

The perfect participle, passive (having been -ed) is used when the action of the participle clause happens before the action of the main clause. The participle clause usually comes first:

Having been attacked during his previous visit, he was very careful about where he went.

The past participle (-ed) has a passive meaning. The participle clause usually comes first. It can express:

1 Cause: Ignored by the other children, the boy played by himself. (= Because he was ignored ...)

2 Description: Surrounded on three sides by mountains, the village rarely enjoys much sunshine.

3 Condition: Kept in a cool place, yoghurt will remain fresh for a long time.
(= If yoghurt is kept in a cool place ...)

EXERCISES

Rewrite the sentences using participle clauses

- 1 Because he was pleased with their behaviour, James took his children to a park.
Pleased with the children's behaviour, James took them to a park.
- 2 The new mall, which is located in the suburbs, is very popular.
- 3 He was late for college yesterday, so he set his alarm for an earlier time this morning.
- 4 After he had completed the project, he started his next venture.
- 5 As she looked over her shoulder, she saw the train leaving.
- 6 Because I had taken the wrong train, I found myself in Swindon not Oxford.

Join the sentences using participle clauses

- 1 I have seen some of the damage done by tourists. I'm now a strong believer in eco-tourism.
- 2 Eco-tourists want to boost the economies of the places they visit. They try to eat only locally produced food.
- 3 The group arrived two hours late. They missed their flight.
- 4 Mario is an experienced travel guide. He always gives reliable advice about places worth visiting.
- 5 Uluru, or Ayers Rock, in Australia is now seriously eroded. It was climbed by large numbers of tourists.
- 6 The Australian government gave Uluru back to the Aboriginal people in 1985. The government hoped that tourists would respect its spiritual significance.