

Participle clauses (-ing, -ed and being -ed)

A

We can give information about someone or something using an **-ing**, **past participle (-ed)** or **being + past participle (-ed)** clause after a noun. These clauses are often similar to *defining relative clauses* (see Unit 70) beginning **which**, **who**, or **that**:

- We stood on **the bridge connecting the two halves of the building**. (*or ...which connects/connected the two halves...*)
- **The weapon used in the murder** has now been found. (*or The weapon that was used...*)
- **The prisoners being released** are all women. (*or ...who are being released...*)

See Unit 75 for participle clauses with a meaning similar to *non-defining relative clauses*.

B

-ing clauses

We often use an **-ing** clause instead of a defining relative clause with an *active verb*:

- **The man driving the bus** is my brother. (*or The man who is driving the bus...*)
- **The land stretching away to the left** all belongs to Mrs Thompson. (*or The land which stretches away to the left...*)
- Police took away Dr Li and **items belonging to him**. (*or ...items which belong/belonged to him.*)

C

Sometimes, however, we can't use an **-ing** clause. For example:

- when there is a noun between the relative pronoun and the verb in the defining relative clause:
 - The man **who Tim is meeting** for lunch is from Taiwan. (*not ...the man Tim meeting...*)
- when the event or action talked about in the defining relative clause comes before the event or action talked about in the rest of the sentence, except when the second event or action is the *result* of the first. Compare:
 - The snow **which fell** overnight has turned to ice. (*not The snow falling overnight...*) *and*
 - The snow **which fell** overnight has caused traffic chaos. (*or The snow falling overnight has caused traffic chaos.*)
- when we talk about a single, completed action in the defining relative clause, rather than a continuous action. Compare:
 - The girl **who fell over** on the ice broke her arm. (*not The girl falling over...*) *and*
 - I pulled off the sheets **which covered** the furniture. (*or ...sheets covering the furniture.*)

Past participle (-ed) and being + past participle (-ed) clauses

D

We often use a **past participle** or **being + past participle** clause instead of a defining relative clause with a *passive verb*:

- The book **published last week** is his first written for children. (*or The book that was published last week...*)
- The boys **being chosen for the team** are under 9. (*or The boys who are being chosen...*)

E

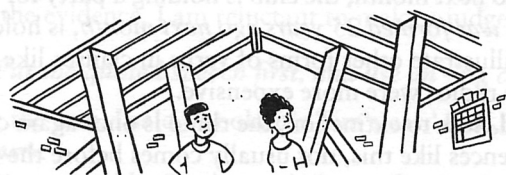
Sometimes, however, we can't use a **past participle** or **being + past participle** clause. For example:

- when there is a noun between the relative pronoun and the verb in the defining relative clause:
 - The speed at **which decisions are made** in the company is worrying. (*not The speed at which decisions made...*)
 - The issue **that club members are being asked** to vote on at tonight's meeting is that of a fee increase... (*not The issue being asked to vote on...*)
- when the defining relative clause includes a modal verb other than **will**:
 - There are a number of people who **should be asked**. (*not ...people should be asked.*)

EXERCISES

Match the sentences in the most likely way, and write them as one sentence using an *-ing* clause. (B)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Some wooden beams hold up the roof. | a They waved to us. |
| 2 Some teachers attended the meeting. | b He was dressed in protective clothing. |
| 3 Some people were driving past. | c They decided to go on strike. |
| 4 A man was operating the equipment. | d They are dangerous. |
| 5 A girl is waiting for the bus. | e They have been damaged. |
| 6 Some steps lead down to the river. | f She is Jack's daughter. |



- 1 + (e) The wooden beams holding up the roof have been damaged.
- 2 The
- 3 The
- 4 The
- 5 The
- 6 The

Complete these sentences with the past participle form of an appropriate verb and one of these phrases. (D)

from the jeweller on the label to the players ~~on the motorway~~
to represent Britain at today's meeting in the storm

- 1 The road repairs carried out on the motorway might delay traffic.
- 2 The decisions will affect all of us.
- 3 The building will have to be demolished.
- 4 Jack Sullivan was the man in the 100 metres.
- 5 The warning about their behaviour on the pitch was ignored.
- 6 All the rings and necklaces have now been recovered.
- 7 The instructions say it should only take a few minutes to cook.

If possible, change the relative clause in these sentences to an *-ing*, past participle or being + past participle clause as appropriate. If it is not possible, write X after the sentence. (B-E)

- 1 The people who are being asked to take early retirement are all over the age of 60.
...people being asked to take...
- 2 The book that she wanted to borrow wasn't available in the library.
- 3 The eye hospital has recently obtained new equipment which will allow far more patients to be treated.
- 4 The children who are being moved to another school all have learning difficulties.
- 5 The man who died in the accident came from Bulgaria.
- 6 An agreement has been signed to protect the forests which are being cut down all over the world.
- 7 I ran through the crowd of people who were hurrying to get to work.
- 8 If you know of anyone who would like to buy Maggie's car, let me know.
- 9 The trees that were blown down in last night's storm have been moved off the road.
- 10 The woman who visited us last week has sent us a present.