

## Participle clauses with adverbial meaning

### A

We can use an **-ing** form of a verb or the **past participle** in a clause which has an adverbial meaning. A clause like this often gives information about **TIME** or **REASONS** and **RESULTS**:

- **Opening** her eyes, the baby began to cry. (= *When* she opened her eyes...)
- **Faced** with a bill for £10, 000, John has taken an extra job. (= *Because* he is faced...)

They are often similar to *non-defining relative clauses* (see Unit 71) with **which**, **who**, or **that**:

- **Feeling** tired, Louise went to bed early. (or Louise, *who was feeling tired*, went...)
- **Formed** 25 years ago next month, the club is holding a party for past and present members. (or The club, *which was formed 25 years ago next month*, is holding...)

The following sentences illustrate other forms of verbs in clauses like this:

- **Being imported**, the radios were more expensive.
- **Having been hunted** close to extinction, the rhino is once again common in this area.

In negative forms of sentences like this, **not** usually comes before the **-ing** form or **past participle**. However, **not** can follow the **-ing** form or the past participle, depending on meaning:

- **Not wanting** to wake her, Steve left the house silently. (= He *didn't want* to...)
- **Preferring not** to go out that night, I made an excuse. (= I *preferred not* to...)

1 The implied subject of a clause like this is usually the same as the subject of the main clause:

- **Arriving** at the party, we saw Ruth standing alone. (= *When we arrived...we saw...*)

However, sometimes the implied subject is not referred to in the main clause:

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

In more formal English, the **-ing** or past participle clause sometimes has its own subject:

- **The score being** level after 90 minutes, a *replay* will take place.

In general, using an **-ing**, **past participle**, or **being + past participle** clause instead of a clause beginning with a conjunction (*when*, *because*, etc.) or a *non-defining relative clause* makes what we say or write more formal. Clauses like this are used particularly in formal or literary writing.

### B

Some clauses like this are used to give information about **TIME**:

- **Glancing** over his shoulder, he could see the dog chasing him. (= *As* he glanced ...)
- **Having completed** the book, he had a holiday. (= *After* he had completed the book...)

We use an **-ing** clause to talk about something that takes place at the same time or very close in time to the action in the main clause:

- **Putting** on a serious face, she began to tell the story.

We often use an **-ing** clause in written narrative after quoted speech, when we want to say what someone was doing while they were talking:

- 'Wait a minute,' said Frank, **running** through the door.

If the action described is relatively long compared with the one described in the main clause, we use a clause beginning **having + past participle**:

- **Having driven** five hours to the meeting, Don learnt that it had been postponed.

Sometimes we can use either an **-ing** clause or a **having + past participle** clause with similar meanings, although using a **having + past participle** clause emphasises that something is completed before the action in the main clause begins. Compare:

- **Taking off** / **Having taken off** his shoes, Ray walked into the house.

### C

Some clauses like this are used to talk about **REASONS** and **RESULTS**. For example:

- **Knowing** exactly what I wanted, I didn't spend much time shopping.
- **Being slim**, he could squeeze through the opening in the fence.
- **Having been invited** to the party, we could hardly refuse to go.

## EXERCISES

**75.1** Rewrite the sentences beginning with an **-ing** or **past participle** clause (or **Not + -ing / past participle**). (A)

- 1 Marie left work early because she didn't feel too well. **Not feeling too well, Marie (or she) left work early.**
- 2 The manager was impressed by Jo's work so he extended her contract for a year.
- 3 He had acquired the money through hard work, so he was reluctant to give it away.
- 4 Because he had started the course, Alan was determined to complete it.
- 5 As we didn't want to offend him, we said nothing about his paintings.
- 6 As I haven't seen all the evidence, I am reluctant to make a judgement.

**75.2** Rewrite the sentences. Put the quoted speech first, and use an **-ing** clause. (B)

- 1 As I grabbed Don by the arm, I said, 'Look, it's Tim's car.' **Look, it's Tim's car, I said, grabbing Don by the arm.**
- 2 As she pointed to the empty table, Sandra said, 'It was here a moment ago.'
- 3 As she turned over in bed, Helen groaned, 'I'll get up in an hour or so.'
- 4 As Mark smiled cheerfully at them, he exclaimed, 'Well, I'm back.'

**75.3** Complete the sentences with the **Having + past participle** form of one of these verbs. In which is it also possible to use an **-ing** form with a similar meaning? (B)

arrive    climb    spend    take    work

- 1 ..... the wrong bus, Tony found himself in an unfamiliar town.
- 2 ..... a tree, Lee was able to see a way out of the forest.
- 3 ..... as a clerk, painter and bus driver, Neil decided to go back to university.
- 4 ..... all morning working in the garden, Betty took a short lunch break.
- 5 ..... early for his appointment, Ron spent some time looking at the magazines.

**75.4** Match the sentence halves and write new ones beginning with an **-ing**, **having been** (+ past participle) or **being** + past participle clause (or **Not + -ing, etc.**). (A-C)

- 1 She was a doctor
  - 2 I didn't expect anyone to be in the house
  - 3 The room had been painted in dark colours
  - 4 Dave was unemployed
  - 5 I don't speak Italian
  - 6 Barbara had been a teacher for 14 years
- a she knew how to keep children interested.  
b I found life in Sicily difficult.  
c I walked straight in.  
d ~~she knew what side-effects the medicine could have.~~  
e he had time to consider what job he really wanted.  
f the room needed some bright lights.

Example: 1 + (d) **Being a doctor, she knew what side-effects the medicine could have.**

