

If one action happened before another, we usually use a perfect participle clause for the earlier action. This can go before or after the main clause:

Having finished his coffee, Versace began to walk back to his house.

= Versace began to walk back to his house, **having finished his coffee**.

We can also use prepositions in front of *-ing* participles:

On entering the darkened room, we noticed a strange figure huddled in the corner.

(= As we entered the room ...)

After swallowing the pill, Edward lay down and tried to get some rest.

4 Participle clauses for reason, condition and result

Provided that the subject of BOTH clauses is the same, we can use participle clauses to replace clauses of reason, condition and result. We often do this in writing:

	FULL CLAUSE	PARTICIPLE PHRASE
reason ¹	<p><i>She will be unable to answer your queries because she is not qualified.</i></p> <p><i>As I hadn't been asked, I didn't really want to interfere.</i></p> <p><i>I had to borrow a set of keys from my landlord because I'd forgotten to take mine.</i></p>	<p>Not being qualified, she will be unable to answer your queries.</p> <p>Not having been asked, I didn't really want to interfere.</p> <p>Having forgotten to take my keys, I had to borrow a set from my landlord.</p>
condition	<i>If you treat it gently, the fabric should last for years.</i>	If treated/Treated gently , the fabric should last for years.
result ²	<i>The corporation shut down the plant, with the result that many workers were left unemployed.</i>	The corporation shut down the plant, leaving many workers unemployed.

¹ We often use the perfect participle because a reason or cause usually comes before a result.

² Note that the result is often not intended: *I stayed at work rather late, missing my last train home.*

5 Reduced relative clauses

Participle clauses are an efficient way of giving more information about a noun and can often be used to replace a defining relative clause (► Unit 53.2). We call these reduced relative clauses. Compare these examples:

*The man **who lives upstairs** is very noisy.* (defining relative clause)

→ *The man **living upstairs** is very noisy.* (active participle phrase)

*They haven't identified the body **which was found in the Thames**.* (defining relative clause)

→ *They haven't identified the body **found in the Thames**.* (passive participle phrase)

Unlike participle clauses, in reduced relative clauses we put the noun we are describing in front of the participle and we do not use commas to separate the clause from the rest of the sentence.

We can only use participles in this way when the subject of the main clause and the relative clause is the same. We cannot use a reduced relative clause if there is another subject between the relative pronoun and the verb:

✗ *The house ~~living in~~ is really old.* ✓ *The house **which we live in** is really old.*

In reduced relative clauses we only use an *-ing* form when we are describing a continuing action or situation. We can't use an *-ing* form for a single completed action or with state verbs:

✗ *The thief ~~taking her bag~~ has been arrested.*

✓ *The thief **who took** her bag has been arrested.* (single completed action)

✗ *The police ~~are investigating the man owning the burnt-out factory~~.*

✓ *The police **are investigating the man who owns** the burnt-out factory.* (state verb)

We use commas around reduced non-defining relative clauses:

*The college, **founded in the nineteenth century**, became a university in the 1930s.*



Pronunciation ► 1.17