



Participle Clauses:

Reduced Relative Clauses:

We can use participle clauses after a noun in the same way as relative clauses. This gives more information about the noun. We sometimes call this a 'reduced relative clause'.

1. A present participle (verb + ing) can be used in the same way as an active relative clause:

- The man driving the car is a friend of mine.
- (= The man who is driving the car is a friend of mine).

The present participle can replace any active tense, not just the present continuous tense:

- Lorries coming over the bridge have to be careful of the wind.
- (= Lorries that come over the bridge have to be careful of the wind).
- Who was the girl wearing the red dress?
- (= Who was the girl who was wearing the red dress?).
- Students handing in their essays late will lose ten marks.
- (= Students who hand in their essays late will lose ten marks).

2. A past participle can be used in the same way as a simple passive relative clause:

- We read the email sent by the manager.
- (= We read the email that had been sent by the manager).
- This vase, made in China in the 14th century, is very valuable.
- (= This vase, which was made in China in the 14th century, is very valuable).
- She only eats cakes made by her mother.
- (= She only eats cakes that are made by her mother).

3. 'Being + past participle' can be used in the same way as a continuous passive relative clause:

- The poem being read by the actor was written by my brother.
- (= The poem that is being read by the actor was written by my brother).
- The strawberries being eaten at the wedding were grown in Scotland.
- (= The strawberries that are being eaten at the wedding...).

Things to notice:

1: We generally don't use perfect participles ('having + past participle') in this case:

2: We can't use this kind of participle clause if we're talking about one finished action which is not repeated:

- Not: ~~Who was the girl dropping the coffee?~~

Instead, we use a normal relative clause:

- Who was the girl who dropped the coffee?