

-ing and -ed clauses (the woman talking to Tom, the boy injured in the accident)

A

A *clause* is a part of a sentence. Some clauses begin with **-ing** or **-ed**. For example:

Do you know the woman **talking to Tom**?

-ing clause

the woman
talking to Tom



The boy **injured in the accident** was taken to hospital.

-ed clause

the boy injured
in the accident



B

We use **-ing** clauses to say what somebody (or something) is (or was) doing at a particular time:

- ☐ Do you know the woman **talking to Tom**? (the woman **is talking** to Tom)
- ☐ Police **investigating the crime** are looking for three men. (police **are investigating** the crime)
- ☐ Who were those people **waiting outside**? (they **were waiting**)
- ☐ I was woken up by a bell **ringing**. (a bell **was ringing**)

You can also use an **-ing** clause to say what happens all the time, not just at a particular time.

For example:

- ☐ The road **connecting the two villages** is very narrow. (the road **connects** the two villages)
- ☐ I have a large room **overlooking the garden**. (the room **overlooks** the garden)
- ☐ Can you think of the name of a flower **beginning with T**? (the name **begins** with T)

C

-ed clauses have a *passive* meaning:

- ☐ The boy **injured in the accident** was taken to hospital. (he **was injured** in the accident)
- ☐ George showed me some pictures **painted by his father**. (they **had been painted** by his father)

Injured and **invited** are *past participles*. Note that many past participles are irregular and do not end in **-ed** (**stolen/made/written** etc.):

- ☐ The police never found the money **stolen in the robbery**.
- ☐ Most of the goods **made in this factory** are exported.

You can use **left** in this way, with the meaning 'not used, still there':

- ☐ We've eaten nearly all the chocolates. There are only a few **left**.

D

We often use **-ing** and **-ed** clauses after **there is / there was** etc. :

- ☐ **There were** some children **swimming** in the river.
- ☐ **Is there** anybody **waiting**?
- ☐ **There was** a big red car **parked** outside the house.