

**Defining relative clauses**

Defining relative clauses tell us which one of a group of things/people we are talking about. The sentence doesn't usually make complete sense without the relative clause.

Use	Example
To tell us which one of a group of things/people we are talking about	<i>The book which I've read was the best of all.</i> <i>The one <b>who</b> is wearing a blue shirt is Justin Timberlake, isn't it?</i>



- Defining relative clauses are not separated from the rest of the sentence by commas.  
✓ *This is the DVD which I told you about the other day.*
- We can also use *that* to introduce the relative clause.  
✓ *This is the DVD **that** I told you about the other day.*
- We can often leave out the word which introduces the relative clause when it is the object of the clause.  
✓ *This is the DVD I told you about the other day.*
- Notice that we do not need a preposition when we use *where* or *when*.  
✓ *The theatre **where** I first acted is somewhere around here.*  
~~✗ *The theatre **where** I first acted **in** is somewhere around here.*~~  
✓ *Do you know the year **when** the first western was made?*  
~~✗ *Do you know the year **when** the first western was made **in**?*~~

**Participles**

Present participles end in *-ing*.  
Past participles usually end in *-ed*, although there are many irregular verbs.  
Perfect participles are formed using *having* + past participle.

Use	Example
To follow prepositions and conjunctions (present and perfect participles)	<i>By <b>appearing</b> in that cigarette advert, he damaged his acting career.</i> <i>After <b>playing</b> / <b>having played</b> video games all morning, I was really tired.</i>
To explain the reason for something (present and perfect participles)	<i><b>Being</b> quite good looking, Ralph decided to make a career as a model.</i> <i><b>Having seen</b> the film before, I knew what was going to happen.</i>
To talk about actions happening at the same time (present participles)	<i><b>Waiting</b> for the show to begin, I felt really nervous.</i>
To replace some relative clauses (present and past participles)	<i>Imagine being the person <b>directing</b> a big budget film! (= Imagine being the person <b>who is directing</b> a big budget film!)</i> <i>The person <b>chosen</b> for the part will be contacted by phone. (= The person <b>who is chosen</b> for the part will be contacted by phone.)</i>
To talk about past actions happening in sequence (perfect participles)	<i><b>Having finished</b> my homework, I decided to go to the cinema.</i>
As an alternative passive form (past participles)	<i><b>Made</b> to wait, the actor began to get very annoyed.</i>



- You have to be careful that the participle and the rest of the sentence both refer to the same subject.  
✓ *Watching TV, I saw a news report about Hollywood.*  
~~✗ *Watching TV, a news report came on about Hollywood.*~~