

Participle clauses with -ing

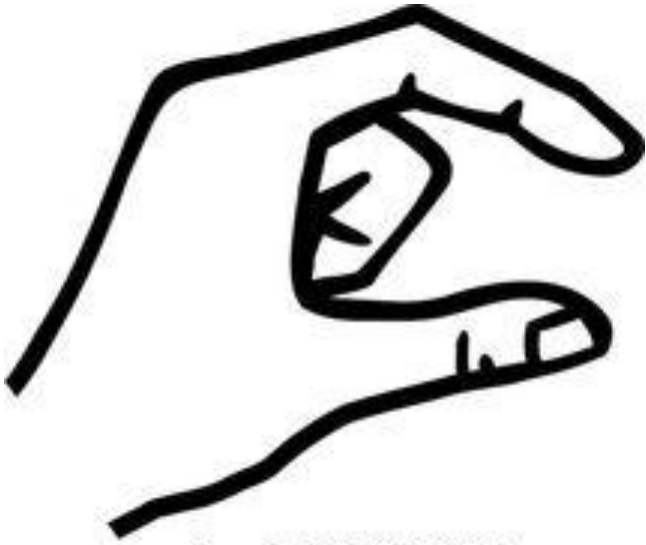
Meaning and use

Present **participle** (verb-**ing**) **clauses** can be used without a subject pronoun and an auxiliary when the subject of the sentence does two things at the same time or when one action interrupts another.

Participle clauses enable us to say information in a more economical way.

We can use participle clauses when the participle and the verb in the main clause have the same subject. For example,

Waiting for Ellie, I made some tea. (While I was waiting for Ellie, I made some tea.)



Participle clauses do not have a specific tense. The tense is indicated by the verb in the main clause.

Participle clauses are mainly used in written texts, particularly in a literary, academic or journalistic style.



Here are some common ways we use present participle clauses. Note that present participles have a similar meaning to active verbs.

- To give the result of an action
*The bomb exploded, **destroying the building.***
- To give the reason for an action
***Knowing she loved reading,** Richard bought her a book.*
- To talk about an action that happened at the same time as another action
***Standing in the queue,** I realised I didn't have any money.*
- To add information about the subject of the main clause
***Starting in the new year,** the new policy bans cars in the city centre.*

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