

Lesson Plan: Participle clauses

Level	Advanced (C1–C2)
Time	60–90 minutes
Skills	Grammar, writing
Focus	Present and past participle clauses for concision and sophistication in writing

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Form present and past participle clauses correctly
- Use participle clauses to condense two clauses into one
- Understand the implied subject rule: participle clause shares subject with main clause
- Use participle clauses to improve the flow and sophistication of academic and creative writing

TARGET LANGUAGE (EXAMPLES)

Present participle clauses — simultaneous/cause

- Walking down the street, she noticed a strange figure.
- Feeling confident, he accepted the challenge.
- Not knowing the answer, she asked for help.

Past participle clauses — passive / result

- Exhausted from the journey, they went straight to bed.
- Built in the 1800s, the bridge is still in use today.
- Given more time, we could have done better.

Having + past participle — earlier action

- Having finished the report, she sent it to her manager.
- Having been warned about the traffic, he left early.

Dangling participle — ERROR to avoid

- Walking to school, the rain started. (WRONG — rain was not walking)
- Correct: Walking to school, I got caught in the rain.

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up (10 min)

Task: Compare two versions of the same text — one with participle clauses, one without.

- Students discuss: which version flows better? Which is more concise?

2. Presentation (15 min)

Task: Introduce present and past participle clauses with the subject rule.

- Having + pp: sequence of events (first action with having, then main clause).
- Dangling participles: the participle clause must share its subject with the main clause.

3. Guided practice (10 min)

Task: Combine two sentences using a participle clause.

- 'She had reviewed all the evidence. She made a decision.' → 'Having reviewed all the evidence, she made a decision.'
- 'The report was written in 2019. It is still relevant.' → 'Written in 2019, the report is still relevant.'

4. Writing task (25 min)

Task: Rewrite a journalistic paragraph to make it more concise using participle clauses.

- Then write an original paragraph (academic or creative) using at least 4 participle clauses.
- Peer review: are there any dangling participles?

5. Error correction (5 min)

Task: Fix 4 dangling or incorrectly formed participle clauses.

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one:

1. Rewrite 8 pairs of sentences as single sentences using participle clauses.
2. Write a short biographical paragraph using at least 5 participle clauses.
3. Find 5 participle clauses in a newspaper feature and explain their function.