

Lesson Plan:

Participle clauses

LEVEL	TIME	SKILLS	FOCUS
Advanced (C1-C2)	60–90 minutes	Grammar, writing	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.