

## Participle Clauses

This is a type of sentence structure that features in OET Reading more than OET writing. However, it is useful to understand how it works and how to use it, for the variety it offers.

First a quick review of clauses:

**How many clauses are there in the sentences below?**

- 1) Paul hates waking up early but he has to do it.
- 2) Despite hating waking up early, Paul has to do it.
- 3) Paul lives in Manchester, which is convenient for working in London, and is also cheaper than living in London.

Clause: A section of a sentence which contains an idea (subject + verb)

**Why is this sentence good?**

Having been diagnosed with meningitis, Mrs Smith was prescribed with IV antibiotics, which were commenced on the 4<sup>th</sup> June and will finish seven days after she is discharged.

- range of tense
- range of voice
- multiple ideas
- range of linking devices
- zero errors

## Review of participles

<p>present participle: <i>verb + ing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>continuous tenses:</b> I have been <i>listening</i>.</li> </ul> <p>I was <i>running</i>. / I am <i>eating</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>gerunds:</b> <i>Swimming</i> is good for you.</li> </ul>	<p>past participles: <i>3<sup>rd</sup> form of a verb</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>perfect tenses:</b> I have <i>visited</i> Spain twice.</li> </ul> <p>She had <i>forgotten</i> her medication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>passive:</b> She was <i>discharged</i> earlier today.</li> </ul>
<p>perfect participle: <i>having + past participle</i></p>	

## Review of participle clauses

Type	Function	Example
<p>present</p> <p><b>verb + ing</b></p>	<p>introduce an action/event/state in the participle clause that is true / occurs at the same time as the action/state/event in the main clause.</p>	<p>Feeling under the weather, <b>Paul called his boss.</b></p> <p>Owning six properties, <b>Paul has a lot of legal responsibilities.</b></p>
<p>perfect</p> <p><b>having + past participle</b></p>	<p>introduce an action/event/state in the participle clause that finished before the action/state/event in the main clause.</p>	<p><b>Today:</b> Having had 4 heart attacks, <b>Mr Smith is concerned about his general physical health.</b></p> <p><b>Past presentation:</b> Having had 4 heart attacks, <b>Mr Smith was concerned about his general physical health.</b></p>

Remember that the tense of the sentence is decided in the **main clause**.

### Exercise 1

Choose a way to connect these ideas. If you use a participle clause, choose between present & past participle:

1) Mr Edwards: Timeline

- intermittent constipation/diarrhoea – last two months
- test - anaemia

2) referral psychiatrist

- Mrs Mary Johnson
- 6 children
- Now: feel can't cope / suicidal

3) Ms Sarah Greene

- 18<sup>th</sup> March – Pt reported visual aura/ nausea / 2 days – vomiting: prescribe triptans
- Today's date: 4<sup>th</sup> May

4) Mr Ronald Harris

- **Today:** Pt reported return : sleeping difficulty / muscle weakness / mood swings - last 4 weeks (Hyperthyroidism medication ineffective?)
- Refer to endocrinologist

5) Ms Jodie Comer

- 16<sup>th</sup> February: Anxiety: - urge to consume alcohol / Does not want relapse – alcoholism / request – counselling
- Today: 21<sup>st</sup> February

Answers

1) Mr Edwards: Timeline

- intermittent constipation/diarrhoea – last two months
- test - anaemia

Having had intermittent constipation over the last two months, an anaemia test has been done / ordered.

Mr Edwards has had intermittent constipation and diarrhoea for the last two months. As a result, an anaemia test has been done / ordered.

2) referral psychiatrist

- Mrs Mary Johnson
- 6 children
- Now: feel can't cope / suicidal

- Being a mother of 6 children, Mrs Johnson feels like she cannot cope.
- Having 6 children, Mrs Johnson is feeling that she cannot cope and bears a suicidal thought / has suicidal thoughts / is having suicidal thoughts

3) Ms Sarah Greene

- 18<sup>th</sup> March – Pt reported visual aura/ nausea / 2 days – vomiting: prescribe triptans
- Today's date: 4<sup>th</sup> May

- On the 18<sup>th</sup> March, having had visual aura, nausea and vomiting, Ms Greene ~~has been~~ was prescribed triptans.
- On 18th March, Ms Sarah Greene reported having visual aura, nausea and vomiting for the ~~last~~ previous 2 days, for which triptans ~~was~~ were prescribed.
- Having had a visual aura, nausea and vomiting, Ms Greene was prescribed triptans on 18th March.
- Having experienced visual aura, nausea, and vomiting for 2 days, Ms Greene was prescribed triptans on ~~4th May~~ 18<sup>th</sup> March.
- On 18th March, having experienced visual aura and nausea over the last previous 2 days, Ms Greene was prescribed Triptan

4) Mr Ronald Harris

- **Today:** Pt reported return : sleeping difficulty / muscle weakness / mood swings - last 4 weeks (Hyperthyroidism medication ineffective?)
- Refer to endocrinologist

Today, Mr Harris is being referred to you, having experienced a return of his hyperthyroid symptoms.

Today, Mr Smith was referred to his endocrinologist, having experienced sleeping difficulty, muscle weakness and mood swings over the past 4 weeks, which could be the result of ineffective medication.

5) Ms Jodie Comer

- 16<sup>th</sup> February: Anxiety: - urge to consume alcohol / Does not want relapse – alcoholism / request – counselling
- Today: 21<sup>st</sup> February

On 16<sup>th</sup> February, Ms Comer requested counselling, having experienced an urge to consume alcohol.

**Past participle:** On 16<sup>th</sup> February, Ms Comer requested counselling, worried that she was relapsing into alcoholism.

On 16<sup>th</sup> February, Ms Comer requested counselling, feeling anxious about a possible relapse into alcoholism.