

29th November
OET Writing – Present Participle Clauses

Starter

Which words are missing from these sentences?

1. The medication (which is) **taken by Mr Smith** is a beta blocker.
2. The doctor (who is) **called Philip** works in the Emergency Department.
3. The equipment (which is) **used by the nursing staff** requires special training.
4. The patients (who were) **treated by our staff** were very happy with their care.

These examples of reduced relative clauses are types of past participle clause. A past participle clause has a passive meaning.

Which words are missing from these sentences?

The nurse slowly demonstrated the self-administration of the insulin, **which** made the patient more comfortable about doing it herself

Doctor Akyol examined the patient carefully **and** he observed some bruising on his leg

Could we make the sentences shorter?

The nurse slowly demonstrated the self-administration of the insulin, **making** the patient more comfortable about doing it herself

Doctor Akyol examined the patient carefully, **observing** some bruising on his leg

Some rules about present participle clauses...

- We can use present participle clauses (verb + ing) to refer to the previous sentence (as a replacement for 'which') or to add to a sentence (replacing words like 'and' or 'in addition')
- A present participle clause has an active meaning
- Make sure that you use a comma before the present participle clause
- If we use the present participle clause to add to a sentence, the subject of the sentence and the participle clause must be the same

Practice:

Use these words in the right form to complete these sentences:

continue / reveal / prompt / check / confirm / focus / ensure / note

1. The nurse entered the room, **checking** the patient's IV line and medications.
2. The surgeon completed the procedure, **ensuring/noting** that no complications had arisen.
3. The patient felt dizzy, **prompting** the nurse to take immediate action.
4. The physician reviewed the test results, **confirming/revealing/noting** the need for further investigation.
5. The patient was discharged from the hospital, **continuing** her recovery at home.
6. The specialist examined the scans, **confirming/noting** some abnormalities in the images.
7. The physical therapist adjusted the exercise routine, **focussing** on improving the patient's mobility.
8. The blood samples were analysed, **revealing** signs of an underlying infection.

Extension:

Look at these notes about Mr Daniel McCrae:

08/02/14:

Pt feeling tired, 'off-colour', as if never fully recovered from infection (Sep 2013). Complains of 'unsettled system' for several weeks – abdominal discomfort, gas, diarrhoea/constipation; feels fatigued. Still under some stress from workload. No family history of colorectal carcinoma, colonic polyps or inflammatory bowel disease.

Which words could go into the space?

Mr McCrae had had an unsettled digestive system for several weeks, ~~experiencing/reporting/including/having/complaining of~~ abdominal discomfort and gas together with diarrhoea and constipation.

Look at these notes about Ms Maria Santini:

↑ Depressive symptoms (+ reclusive, + anti-social, + irritability, + agitation)

Which words could go into the space?

Ms Santini was experiencing depressive symptoms, ~~becoming~~ more reclusive and anti-social in addition to irritable and agitated.