

Samuel looked at the dark green door at the end of the corridor. It was the one room that the professor had asked him not to enter. However, **having visited** every other room in the house, he was now obsessed by this last door. And he was still convinced that he had heard a woman's scream in the night which could have only come from behind that door. **Walking slowly** up the corridor towards the door, he looked behind himself to check he was alone. The handle turned easily and **not being locked**, the door opened. Samuel opened it further. 'Hello?' he called into the darkness beyond. Through the silence, he could hear faint breathing...

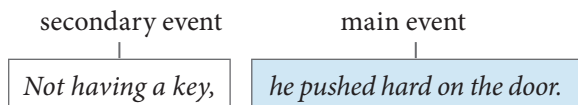


Presentation

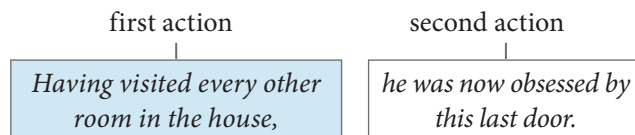
Use participle clauses to describe actions that happen simultaneously or consecutively.

- **Present participles** are formed with verb + *-ing*:
Walking slowly up the corridor towards the door, he looked behind himself.
Not having a key, he pushed hard on the door.
- **Perfect participles** are formed with *having* + past participle:
Having visited every other room in the house, he was now obsessed by this last door.
Not having been in that room before, he didn't know what he'd find.

The main clause of the sentence describes the most important event and the participle clause a secondary event:



If we want to emphasize that the first action finished before the second, we use the perfect participle:



Participle clauses can also express the following ideas:

- Time
When I look back on my childhood, I think my father was right about many things. → *Looking back on my childhood, I think my father was right about many things.*
- Cause
Because he was a doctor, he was naturally curious. → *Being a doctor, he was naturally curious.*
- Result
The door wasn't locked. As a result, it allowed him to enter the room. → *The door wasn't locked, allowing him to enter the room.*

TIP The subject of a participle clause is the same as the subject of the main clause.

Exercises

1 Choose the correct options.

- 1 *Knowing / Having known* the professor for three weeks, he felt he could ask him a personal question.
- 2 *Living / Having lived* in London for a year, she could tell visitors about many of the major landmarks.
- 3 The key fitted the lock, *allowing / having allowed* him to open the door.
- 4 *Being / Having been* a cyclist, I am very fit.
- 5 *Not passing / Not having passed* my driving test, I wasn't able to drive the car home that day.
- 6 I couldn't speak much Spanish, *not studying / not having studied* it at school.
- 7 *Not liking / Not having liked* red meat, I ordered the vegetarian dish.
- 8 The interview went very well, *meaning / having meant* that I got the job.

2 Complete the sentences using the present or perfect participle form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 (be) a curious person, I always get into difficult situations and people often call me 'nosey'!
- 2 (study) literature at university, I still read the classics from time to time.
- 3 (not know) anything about geography, he couldn't find Singapore on the map.
- 4 (not use) the software before, she had to ask for help.
- 5 The police officer walked in front of the car, (force) the driver to stop.
- 6 (stop) the car, the police officer asked the driver to get out.
- 7 (not like) football, the boy suggested they all play a different game.
- 8 (not attend) any of the lectures, the student failed the end-of-term exams.

3 Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use a participle clause.

- 1 Because they had forgotten the address, they called the company.
....., they called the company.
- 2 When I spoke to her later, I thought she sounded much happier.
....., I thought she sounded much happier.
- 3 There was a long traffic jam in the town centre. This caused her to miss the train.
There was a long traffic jam in the town centre,
- 4 The car was sent for scrap because it had broken down so many times.
The car was sent for scrap,
- 5 He was much happier when he heard he'd got the job.
He was much happier
- 6 The fire brigade put out the fire very quickly. As a result, they saved everything in the house.
The fire brigade put out the fire very quickly,