



Unit 40 – Participle Clauses with Adverbial Meaning (*Having walked for miles..*)

A) Participle clauses often express **condition, reason, cause, result** or **time** in a similar way to full adverbial clauses, but in a more efficient manner. Compare the following:

- > **Having taken** the wrong bus, I ended up in Truro, not Halifax. (***Because I had taken the wrong bus..***)
- > **Raised properly**, dogs make for very well-behaved pets. (***If dogs are raised properly, they make for..***)

Note that we can use both **present participle (-ing)** and **past participle (-ed)** clauses with adverbial meaning.

The implied subject of a participle clause is usually the same subject in the main clause of the sentence:

- > **Walking by the library**, **we** saw Dan at the entrance. (***When we walked by the library, we saw Dan..***)

However, the implied subject is not always indicated in the main clause:

- > **Having never been** to a professional soccer game, the invitation to go seemed too good to be true.

B) The participle clause or main clause can take a pronoun in formal or academic English. The -ing participle clause is used when referring to something occurring at the same time by usually adding additional facts and information:

- > Parents often balance each other, with **one being** strict and the other **one being** more lenient.
- > **His** pace **accelerating with every mile**, the Olympic champion looked unbeatable in the marathon.

C) 'Not' is generally used **before** the -ing participle, although it can also come **after** the -ing participle as well:

- > **Not willing** to concede, he continued to argue. **Hoping not** to be beaten, he kept competing hard.

D) **Having + past participle** is used when the action in the participle clause **causes** the action in the main clause:

- > **Having walked** for miles, we felt exhausted from the humidity. or: After walking for miles..

The **present participle (-ing)** or **having + past participle clauses** can both be used when the action in the participle clause happens **before** the action in the main clause:

- > **Pulling out** onto the main road, another car almost hit mine! (***Having pulled out..has a similar meaning***)
- > **Skipping breakfast**, I felt light-headed all morning. or: (***Having skipped breakfast, I felt light-headed..***)

E) Prepositions such as **after, before, besides, by, in, on, since, through, while, with, without**, etc. can be used with a **present participle (-ing) clause** with an adverbial meaning:

- > **By dedicating** himself to his studies this semester, Miguel has improved his grades in every class.
- > **Since entering** the company, my sister has worked hard to earn the respect of her colleagues.

We can also change the verb to a **past participle verb (-ed)** to convey a more causal tone:

- > **Before opening** (***Before she opened..***) her gift, my niece looked up and smiled at us.

F) Note the meanings of **by / in / on** with **present participle (-ing)** clauses:

by	By meditating every morning, I have felt much calmer.	-> indicates 'the method or means used'
in	In blaming others, Steve has created resentment in the office.	-> indicates 'cause' or 'reason'
on	On arriving home I discovered the robbery and called the police.	-> indicates 'when'

Note: -> 'on' can be substituted with 'upon' to communicate a more formal tone.

- > 'by' and 'in' can be used interchangeably in most contexts (*although 'by' is used in informal situations*)

G) With / Without + **present participle (-ing)** clauses denote a **reason** for something in the main clause:

- > **With** the pond **freezing** last night, we'll be able to play hockey on it today! (***Because the pond froze..***)

'With' can also be used with a noun phrase to refer to a reason:

- > **With his leg injury**, Ronaldo will be out of the lineup for the next two weeks. (***Because of his leg injury..***)

Without + -ing indicates an action that *will not / won't / did not* occur:

- > **Without warming up**, you increase the risk of injury while working out. (***By not warming up, you..***)

Without + -ing can, however, have a meaning similar to 'although .. not' or 'unless':

- > Teachers can easily hurt their students' feelings **without meaning to**. (***..although they don't mean to.***)
- > **Without protecting** your password, your phone is vulnerable. (***Unless you protect your password..***)



H) Adverbial meanings can also be added to a clause beginning with a **conjunction** or **adjective**:

- > **Thrilled with getting** the job, I wanted to treat everyone to dinner. (*Because I was thrilled with..*)
- > **While about to leave**, Jenny sent a text telling me she couldn't meet. (*While I was about to leave..*)

Unit 40 – Exercises:

40.1 – Rewrite each sentence beginning with one of the clause forms in sections A, B or C. **(40-A/B/C)**

1. I wanted to speak to Charlene about the presentation so I set up a meeting with her.

Wanting to speak to Charlene about the presentation, I set up a meeting with her.

2. While I was sitting in the cafe, I suddenly remembered that I had forgotten to turn off the oven.

3. As Erin answered questions during her interview, she avoided questions related to her family.

4. Frank didn't remember to set his alarm and ended up being late for class today.

5. Steve has rescued two separate dogs. One of them is from the streets and the other one is from a shelter.

40.2 – Match the following sentence halves by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate prepositions:

after / through / without / while / before. (40-E)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. After getting several poor grades in his classes | 1. the school has raised enough for a new library. |
| 2. _____ leaving school on his final day of teaching | 2. Daniel knew that he had to start studying harder. |
| 3. _____ its non-stop, collective fundraising efforts | 3. Jeff started to play the piano beautifully one day. |
| 4. _____ walking through Stanely Park this afternoon | 4. Mr. Toms sent a heartfelt message to his students. |
| 5. _____ even trying to impress his music teacher | 5. I unexpectedly met an old friend from high school. |

40.3 – Correct the following participial clauses, if necessary, in the space provided. **(40-F)**

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. On apologizing to Mary for what he had said, he felt much better afterwards. | on -> by (or in) |
| 2. Upon arriving early to school, I quickly reviewed for the examination. | _____ |
| 3. On receiving a large, private donation, the YMCA has been able to build a new gym. | _____ |
| 4. On getting home from work last night, I took a shower and went straight to bed. | _____ |
| 5. Upon consistently following his diet, Tim's been able to lose 20 pounds. | _____ |

40.4 – Complete the sentences following the use of 'with' in a clause with adverbial meaning. **(40-G)**

- With my sore left foot, I .. _____
- With my best friend moving closer me, we .. _____
- Without Kelly having her driver's license, she .. _____
- With her promotion to senior manager, Dawn .. _____
- I left for work / school this morning without .. _____

40.5 – Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate conjunction or adjective (with no verb). **(40-C)**

after / while / frustrated / whenever / thrilled / relieved / anxious

- After** class, Ben asked for some extra help from his teacher to ensure that he understood the lecture.
- _____ with his computer, Glen called a repair shop to make an appointment to get it fixed.
- _____ about to leave, we thanked the hosts, Brian and Kelly for such a lovely time at their new house.
- _____ with the news, Mary took us out to eat to celebrate her recent promotion!
- _____ to arrive safely, we were thankful for dad's good driving during the snowstorm.
- _____ before the presentation, I tried to relax by doing some breathing exercises.
- _____ possible, I try to take the bus into the city instead of driving.