

Participle Clauses for 4ºA

Introduction

A verb in Participle, as you all know, is a verb in the –ing form (going, playing, singing).

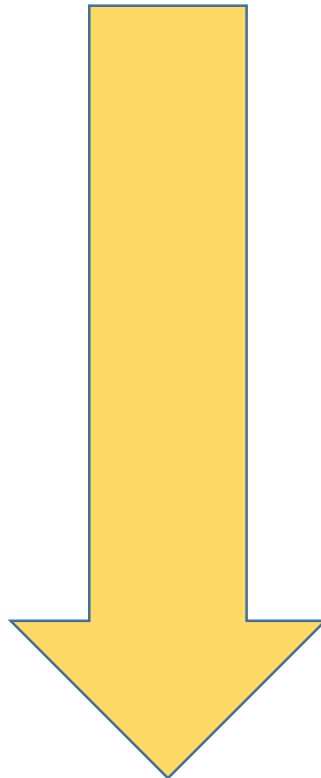
A “clause” (“oración”) is a part of a sentence (“frase”), which means that a sentence can have three verbs in one sentence, but each of them creates a clause. This is similar to what we do in Spanish.

If we say “I ate my cereal, she read a book and he played tennis”, we have one sentence, but three coordinate clauses.

In the sentence “I ate my cereal because I was hungry”, we have one sentence, but a main clause (I ate my cereal) which makes sense on its own, and then a subordinate clause (because I was hungry) which needs the main one to make sense.

Let’s stop here for a moment? Do you understand what I am doing? Basically, I am trying to say that a Subordinate clause is, in Spanish, “oración subordinada”.

READ IT AGAIN AND TRY TO RELATE IT TO WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW. READ THIS PART AS MANY TIMES AS YOU NEED BEFORE MOVING INTO THE MAIN PART OF THE EXPLANATION



So... What are Participle Clauses? They are subordinate clauses (oraciones subordinadas).

Participle clauses enable us to say information in a more economical way. We can use participle clauses when the participle and the verb in the main clause have THE SAME SUBJECT.

Ex. Having heard the news, I felt very happy.

Main clause (Oración Principal): I felt very happy.

(Subordinate) Participle clause (verb in –ing form+Past Participle of the main verb): having heard the news.

Why do we do this? Because it is shorter and more effective than saying “I felt very happy because I had heard the news”.

We can use three types of participles:

- Present Participle (verb in the –ing form, like *living, seeing, needing*).

- We use it TO SAY THAT BOTH ACTIONS HAPPEN AT THE SAME TIME.

Ex. Reading my book in the garden, I felt more comfortable than ever = When I was reading my book in the garden, I felt more comfortable than ever.

- We also use it TO EXPLAIN THE REASON FOR SOMETHING.

Ex. Feeling really tired, I decided to take a nap.

Ex. Knowing a little German, I made myself understood during the trip.

- Past Participle (verb in the Past Participle, *spent, given, heard*).

- We use it to create an alternative to a PASSIVE SENTENCE (in the second clause).

Ex. They only accept presents given by their parents = They only accept presents that are given to them by their parents.

Ex. They believe the news heard by their friends = They believe the news that are/were heard by their friends.

Ex. Shocked by the explosion, the people ran for shelter = The people were shocked by the explosion and ran for shelter.

- The Perfect form of the Present Participle (verb “to have” in the –ing form – *having-* and the main verb in the Past Participle (*gone, seen, watched*)).

- We use it to say that AN ACTIVITY HAPPENED BEFORE ANOTHER ACTIVITY.

Ex. Having finished my homework, I decided to watch a film = When I had finished my homework, I decided to watch a film.

Now, please watch the videos or visit the websites I have provided and ask me any questions you may have.