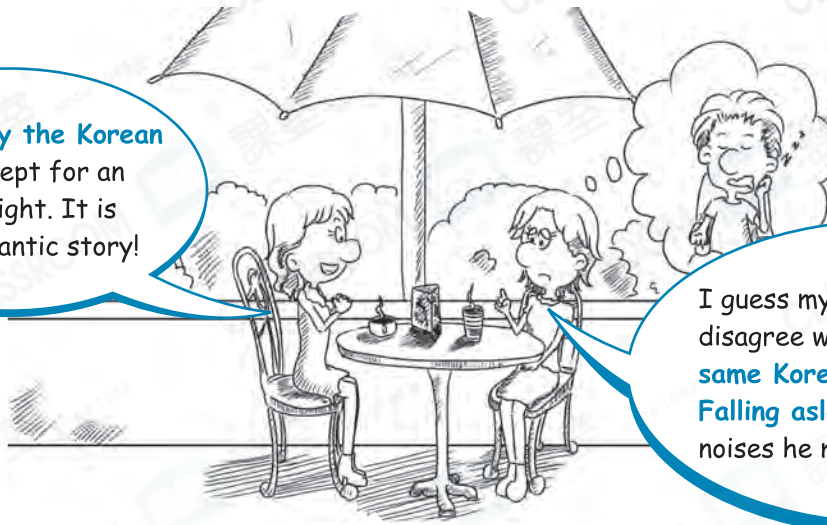


14

Participle phrases

Touched by the Korean drama, I wept for an hour last night. It is such a romantic story!



I guess my boyfriend will totally disagree with you. **Bored by the same Korean drama**, he fell asleep. **Falling asleep**, he snored. The noises he made killed the mood.



Usage

We use a participle phrase to give more information about the subject. There are **present** and **past participle phrases**. We usually use them at the **beginning of a sentence** followed by a comma. We can put *not* before it to express negative meanings.

	Participle phrase	Subject	
Present	Being the youngest child,	Harry	is spoiled by the family.
	Not feeling well,	I	called for sick leave.
Past	Elected as the chairperson,	Margret	felt very proud.
	Not invited to the party,	Lily	stayed at home that night.

We use a participle phrase to talk about:

1. the reason for something.

e.g. ***Wanting to be strong**, Freddy works out every day.*
(= Freddy works out every day because he wants to be strong.)



2. one action happening right after or in the middle of the other.

e.g. ***Hit by a lorry**, the tree fell down.*
(= The tree fell down after it was hit by a lorry.)

e.g. ***Having dinner at home tonight**, Don saw some mice.*
(= While Don was having dinner at home tonight, he saw some mice.)



* Note that we do not use **past** participle phrases to talk about one action happening in the middle of the other



Part 1 Present Participle Phrases

A present participle phrase begins with a present participle (i.e. the *-ing* form of a verb). It usually has an active meaning. We use a present participle to replace 'a subject + an active verb' to form phrases in the following tenses:

Tense	Example
The simple present	Being , the porcelain vase The porcelain vase is fragile. It must be handled carefully.
The simple past	Not knowing , Cathy Cathy didn't know the answer. She asked Miss Lee for help.
The present continuous	Staying , Ian Ian is staying in London for the summer. He can practise English.
The past continuous	Missing , Kelly Kelly was missing home badly. She gave her mother a call.



Educator's Tips



When forming participle phrases, we can **change the subject pronoun** in the main clause into a noun to tell who or what we are talking about.

e.g. **Witnessing**, Natalie
~~Natalie witnessed~~ a robbery. She reported to the police.

Exercise 1.1

Rewrite the underlined parts using present participle phrases.

1. Hilary heard a sad song on the radio. She wept.

_____ *Hearing a sad song on the radio* _____, Hilary wept.

2. Amanda has nothing to do. She stays in bed until 11 am.

_____, Amanda stays in bed until 11 am.



3. I don't want to be late for school. I always set two alarm clocks.

_____, I always set two alarm clocks.

4. Mum was queuing up at the cashier. She called me.

_____, Mum called me.





Educator's Tips



We can use present participle phrases after certain connectives like *after*, *when* and *while*.

e.g. *While chopping an onion, Alex cried.*

e.g. *After winning the competition, Nippo was interviewed by the media.*



Exercise 1.2

Rewrite the following sentences using present participle phrases.

1. After Danny brushed his teeth, he went to bed.

After brushing his teeth, Danny went to bed.

2. The old lady was sewing a quilt. She stuck the needle into her finger.
-



3. He is too young. He can't reach the top of the shelf.
-

4. Max is digging a hole in the garden. He scatters the soil all over the lawn.
-

5. While Harriet was walking down the street, she slipped on a banana skin.
-

6. When you do not do the homework, you are scolded by your mother.
-





Part 2 Past Participle Phrases

A past participle phrase begins with a past participle (i.e. the perfect or passive form of a verb). It usually has a passive meaning. We use a past participle to replace 'a subject + a passive verb' to form phrases in the following tenses:

Tense	Example
The simple present	Not liked , the show The show is not liked by the public. It has a low rating.
The simple past	Prepared , the sandwiches The sandwiches were prepared in a rush. They tasted bad.



Educator's Tips



We can also use a past participle to replace 'as / since / when / after + a subject + a passive verb'.

Chased
e.g. ~~As / Since it was chased~~ by a stranger, the dog ran fast.

Informed
e.g. ~~When she was informed~~ of the bad news, Mrs Chow broke down.

Pushed
e.g. ~~After he was pushed~~ over by a rude man, Vincent twisted his ankle.



Exercise 2

Rewrite the following sentences using past participle phrases.

1. As the speaker is interrupted by the noises outside, he is annoyed.

_____ , the speaker is annoyed.

2. After Danny was startled by a sudden loud bang, he dropped the glass.

3. When Trisha was announced as the winner, she screamed excitedly.

4. The new student is not welcomed by his classmates. He feels lonely.





Educator's Tips



Pay attention to the use of connectives in present and past participle phrases.

e.g. (After) **taking a cooking class**, I could make yummy dishes.
(Present participle phrase)

e.g. After **Taught by a chef**, I could make yummy dishes.
(Past participle phrase)

More theme-related vocabulary on P.144 **DSE**

Theme: Leisure and hobbies

Text Type: Story

Unit Recap

Kelly is writing a story about an adventure. Complete the story by rewriting the sentences given using the correct present or past participle phrases.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| (1) After they walked along the narrow paths | (4) While they were taking a rest |
| (2) The boys were trapped in groups of trees | (5) As Kit was terrified by the noise |
| (3) Both boys carried heavy backpacks | (6) Kit did not find a way out |

On a sunny Saturday morning, Kit and his friend Johnny went camping. Gathering at the pier on time, they headed towards a **remote** island. They went to find a site for setting up their tents on their arrival. **(1)** _____, they soon got into the woods. **(2)** _____, the boys were lost.

(3) _____, both of them felt exhausted so they took a rest. **(4)** _____, they heard a noise in the trees.

(5) _____, Kit almost ran away but Johnny asked him to calm down.

Soon it was getting dark. **(6)** _____, Kit began to **sob**. 'I want to go home!' he cried. Then they heard that the noise was getting closer! They were so scared that they dashed to the opposite direction. 'Stop running! We won't hurt you!' someone shouted. The strangers were the natives there. They led the boys out of the woods carefully and the boys thanked them sincerely.



Vocabulary:

remote (adj.): far away from any towns or cities

sob (v.): to cry while taking short deep breaths