

Participle clauses

verbless and participle clauses following subordinators

clauses of time

abbreviated **-ing clauses** follow *after, before, since, when(ever), while*:

He wrote his greatest novel *while working on a freighter*.

abbreviated **-ed clauses** follow *once, until, when(ever), while*:

Once published, the book caused a remarkable stir.

abbreviated **verbless clauses** follow *as soon as, once, when(ever), while*:

When in difficulty, consult the manual.

clauses of place

abbreviated clauses occur with *where(ever)*:

Where(ever) known, such facts have been reported.

Where(ever) possible, all moving parts should be tested.

clauses of condition and concession

abbreviated clauses follow *if, unless, (al)though*:

If ready, ...

Unless expressively forbidden, ...

Though a young man, ...

Although often despairing of rescue, ...

Even if still operating, ...

Even though given every attention, ...

Non-finite and verbless adverbial clauses without subordinators

Non-finite and verbless adverbial clauses without subordinators, as well as with subordinators, are assumed to be identical in reference to the subject of the superordinate (= übergeordnet). There are, however, clauses where there is no obvious reference to the subject of the superordinate clause. Depending on their degree of intelligibility and lack of ambiguity, these combinations are either acceptable, questionable or unacceptable. So, be careful!

Though very ill, he was cured by the medicine in no time.
~~?*Though very ill*~~, the medicine cured him in no time.

Considering how much it costs, this machine is a failure.
Putting it mildly, you have caused us some inconvenience.

~~**Reading the evening paper*~~, the dog started barking.

~~**Grilled deliciously*~~, the guests enjoyed their steaks.

Having constructed it this way, they could not help watching the wheels fall off.

~~**Having constructed it this way*~~, the wheels fell off.

We met you [when you?/we? were] leaving the room.

Semantic versatility (= bedeutungstragende Vielseitigkeit)

Being a farmer, he is suspicious of all governmental interference (*As he is a farmer*, ...)

Cleared, this side will be very valuable (*When cleared*, ...)

Cleared, this side would be very valuable (*If cleared*, ...)

Seeing the accident, he stopped immediately. (*When seeing.../ When he saw...*)

Having seen the accident, he stopped immediately.
 (*When/After he had seen...*)

Put in suitable conjunctions.

- 1 You can have my bike _____ you bring it back tomorrow.
- 2 I'm staying here _____ I get my money back.
- 3 It was very dark in the passage, _____ I couldn't see where I was going.
- 4 Joe was short and dark, _____ his sister was the exact opposite.
- 5 You look _____ you've seen a ghost.
- 6 He won't get any money _____ he finishes the work properly.
- 7 It looks _____ it's going to rain.
- 8 You can cancel the ticket _____ you tell the airline 48 hours in advance.
- 9 I'm going to the bank now, _____ I'll have enough money for shopping.
- 10 _____ I think his novels are good, his poetry isn't up to much.

Put in suitable conjunctions using *after*, *before*, *when*, *while* and *since*.

1. I usually have a snack. _____ going to bed.
2. He had a heart attack _____ watching a video.
3. _____ spending all that money on CDs, I'd better not buy anything else.
4. Use damp string _____ tying up parcels; when it dries it shrinks and gets tight.
5. How many jobs have you had _____ leaving school?
6. We went for a walk _____ leaving for the airport.
7. Put this on _____ shaving and you'll smell wonderful.
8. I haven't heard anything from her _____ getting that letter last month.
9. I often listen to music _____ working.
10. Always wear goggles _____ working with metal.

Rewrite the sentences, using *-ing* or *-ed* clauses without conjunctions as shown in the examples:

Having failed to persuade John, I tried his brother. (As I had failed...)

Used economically, a tin will last for weeks. (= If it is used economically ...)

Putting down my newspaper, I went over to the phone.

It rained for two weeks on end, completely ruining our holiday.

1. As he had left school at twelve, he had no qualifications.
2. It tastes delicious if it is fried in butter and sprinkled with lemon juice.
3. She walked over to her desk and picked up a paper.
4. The water came into the houses, and flooded the downstairs rooms.
5. As I knew his tastes, I took him a large box of expensive chocolates.
6. He put on his coat and went out.
7. A lorry broke down in Bond Street, and caused a massive traffic jam.
8. As I didn't want to frighten her, I phoned before I went round.
9. If it is sent first class, it should arrive tomorrow.
10. At 3 a.m. Simon came in, and woke everybody in the house.