

# Participles

The participle can be used like an adjective and like a verb (Verbaladjektiv).

**The most common forms:**

- present participle (active):	pulling, writing
- past participle (passive):	pulled, written

Other possible forms:

- perfect participle (active): having pulled, having written
- present participle (passive): being pulled, being written
- perfect participle (passive): having been pulled, having been written

## 1. Participles instead of relative clauses

- The girl <u>waiting</u> at the bus stop is my sister. - Many of the people <u>living</u> here are Asians.	..who is waiting .. who live here
Translation: relative clause (in German)	

## 2. Related participle constructions

(Verbundene Partizipialkonstruktionen - vergleichbare Nebensätze haben **dasselbe Subjekt** wie der Hauptsatz))

### Participle constructions to replace adverbial clauses

a. ( <b>When</b> ) <u>looking down</u> from the plane, (When we looked down from the plane ...) Als wir .. herunterschauten, ...  ( <b>While</b> ) <u>staying</u> in Detroit, ... (While I was staying in Detroit, ...) Während ich.. war, ...	we saw the lights of the city.  I met an old friend of mine.
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Translation: adverbial clause  
(in German)

!!! Sometimes a conjunction is necessary to make the meaning of the participle construction clear.

### Participle constructions instead of two main clauses

b. The tourists followed the guide, Die Touristen folgten dem Reiseleiter.	<u>taking</u> photos and <u>admiring</u> the view. Sie machten Fotos und bewunderten die Aussicht.
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Translation: main clause  
(in German)

### 3. Absolute participle constructions

(Unverbundene Partizipialkonstruktionen - vergleichbare Nebensätze haben **ein anderes Subjekt** als der Hauptsatz)

#### Participle constructions to replace adverbial clauses and instead of a second main clause

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>The weather</b> being bad, <b>As</b> the weather was bad, Da das Wetter schlecht war,</li> <li>- <b>The roads</b> cleared of snow, <b>When</b> the roads had been cleared.. Als die Straßen geräumt waren,</li> <li>- <b>The law</b> being unable to catch him The law was unable to catch him; Das Gesetz konnte...nicht fassen; Weil das Gesetz...nicht..konnte,</li> </ul>	<p><b>we</b> decided to stay at home. ... entschlossen wir uns...</p> <p><b>my sister</b> left the house. ... verließ meine Schwester...</p> <p><b>Al Capone's</b> business survived. so Al Capone's business survived. deshalb überlebte.... überlebte...</p>
<p>Translation: adverbial clause main clause (in German)</p>	

#### The 'with + participle' construction

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It's been a very busy day, Es war ein arbeitsreicher Tag.</li> <li>- <b>With</b> so many people <u>being ill</u>, Da so viele Leute krank sind,</li> </ul>	<p><b>with</b> the phone <u>ringing</u> all the time. Das Telefon klingelte pausenlos.</p> <p>there's a lot more to do than usual. gibt es viel mehr Arbeit als gewöhnlich.</p>
<p>Translation: main clause adverbial clause (in German)</p>	

#### 4. Participles after verbs describing a position or movement

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He just <b>sits</b> <u>watching</u> TV.</li> <li>- They <b>stood</b> <u>waiting</u> outside the cinema.</li> <li>- Mr Smith <b>came</b> <u>running</u> along the street.</li> </ul>	<p>Er sitzt nur da und sieht fern. Sie standen ... und warteten. Mr. Smith kam die Straße entlang gelaufen.</p>
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#### 5. Participles after verbs of perception

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some of the neighbours <b>watched</b> us <u>moving</u> in.</li> <li>- I <b>didn't see</b> her <u>leaving</u> the house.</li> </ul>	<p>Einige Nachbarn schauten zu, wie wir einzogen. Ich sah nicht, wie sie das Haus verließ.</p>
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#### 6. Participles after 'have' and 'get' meaning 'to cause'

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We always <b>have</b> our car <u>washed</u>.</li> <li>- Our car is broken. Why don't you <b>get</b> it <u>repaired</u>?</li> </ul>	<p>Wir lassen unseren Wagen immer waschen. ..Warum läßt du ihn nicht reparieren?</p>
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Replace the following participle constructions by clauses and translate them into German.

Concentrate on the following categories:

1. Participles to replace an adverbial clause (with and without conjunctions)
2. Participles to replace two main clauses **with the same subject**
3. Participles to replace two main clauses **with different subjects**
4. 'With + participle' construction
5. Participles instead of a relative clause

1. Having travelled so far the first week, they were glad to have a rest for a few days.
2. After presenting the case to the jury, the lawyer sat down.
3. The flags waved by the children added to the colourful scene.
4. With a rock blocking their way, they had to return home.
5. Though working hard, they didn't manage to get the grade necessary.
6. Many caves are open to the public, some of them even being equipped with electric light.
7. Passing the factory, we saw the old chimney had been demolished.
8. The girl over there playing tennis is my sister.
9. Having become unsafe, the tower had to be closed.
10. The cave was dark, with bats flying around.
11. Known all over the world, London Bridge attracts many visitors every year.
12. While staying in the hotel, I met an old friend of mine.
13. The fire still burning, we went to sleep in our tents.
14. When arrested he decided to tell the police about his accomplice.
15. Living by the sea, I got used to the sound of the waves.
16. With so many teachers being ill, the headmaster let the pupils go home.
17. Though found guilty by the court, the prisoner still said he was innocent.
18. It's been a terrible day, with the telephone ringing all the time.
19. The kitchen cleared of all the dirty plates, we could finally sit down and watch TV.
20. Not knowing what to do last night, they went to a disco to have a good time.
21. While looking out of the window, I noticed that our neighbour had a new girlfriend.
22. With spring coming and the days getting longer, Alan will start playing tennis again.

## The Great Chicago Fire

The fire started in an old barn, one Saturday evening in October 1871. With a strong west wind blowing, it spread like a burning wave over the sea of houses in the city. In those days, most of the houses in Chicago - and the sidewalks and streets - were made of wood, and the fire swept through them in no time. There was no chance of putting it out. People  
5 left their homes as quickly as they could, escaping to the open prairie for safety.

The fire went on burning for three nights and two days, killing 300 people and destroying nearly 20,000 buildings. Then, on the Tuesday morning, as if sent from heaven, a great storm broke over Chicago, putting out the fire at last.  
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Though almost completely destroyed by fire, Chicago was quickly rebuilt. They say that some of the people while watching the houses burn down, were already making exciting plans for a new city. Over the next few months, thousands of immigrants came to Chicago, many of them attracted by the rebuilding activities. Two or three years later, the city was  
15 one of the finest in America, and in the 1880s the first skyscrapers were built. Today, three of the five tallest skyscrapers in the world are to be found in Chicago, Sears Tower being the highest.

*First read the text. Then underline all the participle constructions you can find. Replace the participle constructions in the text by clauses, to show that you have understood their meaning. Now write a translation of the text, being especially careful with the participles.*

## School for traffic offenders

The speed limit on US highways is only 55 miles per hour. Anyone who drives faster than that may be stopped by the police and fined. But in some states offenders have a choice, the alternative to a fine being a one-day course in driving safety, called 'Traffic School'. This is a very positive idea, giving traffic offenders the chance to learn something useful  
5 instead of just paying a fine.

The 'Traffic School' courses, although recognized by the police, are not actually organized by them. Because of this, offenders feel free to talk about their mistakes. The instructors discuss things very openly, never blaming drivers for what they have done wrong. Many  
10 different themes are discussed at courses, two important ones being the reason behind traffic laws, and what causes accidents. Instructors also talk about the dangers of drinking and driving, explaining the effects of alcohol on a person's reactions.

Most of the people who attend 'Traffic School' are not serious offenders, the majority of them going to the course with an open mind. Afterwards they usually take a more positive attitude towards road safety, now realizing that driving should be a cooperative activity. One instructor says (speaking from experience), "The way you feel while driving has an enormous effect on the way you behave on the highways." It seems quite likely that 'Traffic  
15 School' courses, although seen by some as a waste of time and money, will be introduced as an alternative to traffic fines in more and more states.  
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*Read the text. Then underline all the participle constructions you can find. Now write a translation of the text, being especially careful with the participles.*