

Samuel looked at the dark green door at the end of the corridor. It was the one room that the professor had asked him not to enter. However, **having visited** every other room in the house, he was now obsessed by this last door. And he was still convinced that he had heard a woman's scream in the night which could have only come from behind that door. **Walking slowly** up the corridor towards the door, he looked behind himself to check he was alone. The handle turned easily and **not being locked**, the door opened. Samuel opened it further. 'Hello?' he called into the darkness beyond. Through the silence, he could hear faint breathing...

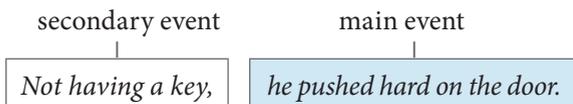


## Presentation

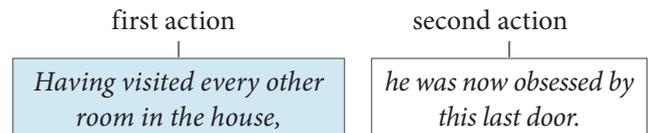
Use participle clauses to describe actions that happen simultaneously or consecutively.

- **Present participles** are formed with verb + *-ing*:  
*Walking slowly up the corridor towards the door, he looked behind himself.*  
*Not having a key, he pushed hard on the door.*
- **Perfect participles** are formed with *having* + past participle:  
*Having visited every other room in the house, he was now obsessed by this last door.*  
*Not having been in that room before, he didn't know what he'd find.*

The main clause of the sentence describes the most important event and the participle clause a secondary event:



If we want to emphasize that the first action finished before the second, we use the perfect participle:



Participle clauses can also express the following ideas:

- Time  
*When I look back on my childhood, I think my father was right about many things.* → *Looking back on my childhood, I think my father was right about many things.*
- Cause  
*Because he was a doctor, he was naturally curious.* → *Being a doctor, he was naturally curious.*
- Result  
*The door wasn't locked. As a result, it allowed him to enter the room.* → *The door wasn't locked, allowing him to enter the room.*

**TIP** The subject of a participle clause is the same as the subject of the main clause.

## Exercises

### 1 Choose the correct options.

- 1 *Knowing / Having known* the professor for three weeks, he felt he could ask him a personal question.
- 2 *Living / Having lived* in London for a year, she could tell visitors about many of the major landmarks.
- 3 The key fitted the lock, *allowing / having allowed* him to open the door.
- 4 *Being / Having been* a cyclist, I am very fit.
- 5 *Not passing / Not having passed* my driving test, I wasn't able to drive the car home that day.
- 6 I couldn't speak much Spanish, *not studying / not having studied* it at school.
- 7 *Not liking / Not having liked* red meat, I ordered the vegetarian dish.
- 8 The interview went very well, *meaning / having meant* that I got the job.

### 2 Complete the sentences using the present or perfect participle form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 ..... (be) a curious person, I always get into difficult situations and people often call me 'nosey!'
- 2 ..... (study) literature at university, I still read the classics from time to time.
- 3 ..... (not know) anything about geography, he couldn't find Singapore on the map.
- 4 ..... (not use) the software before, she had to ask for help.
- 5 The police officer walked in front of the car, ..... (force) the driver to stop.
- 6 ..... (stop) the car, the police officer asked the driver to get out.
- 7 ..... (not like) football, the boy suggested they all play a different game.
- 8 ..... (not attend) any of the lectures, the student failed the end-of-term exams.

### 3 Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use a participle clause.

- 1 Because they had forgotten the address, they called the company.  
....., they called the company.
- 2 When I spoke to her later, I thought she sounded much happier.  
....., I thought she sounded much happier.
- 3 There was a long traffic jam in the town centre. This caused her to miss the train.  
There was a long traffic jam in the town centre, .....
- 4 The car was sent for scrap because it had broken down so many times.  
The car was sent for scrap, .....
- 5 He was much happier when he heard he'd got the job.  
He was much happier .....
- 6 The fire brigade put out the fire very quickly. As a result, they saved everything in the house.  
The fire brigade put out the fire very quickly, .....