



Participle Clauses: Present Participle as Reduced Relative Clause

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- The woman ___ at the reception desk can help you.
a) worked
b) working
c) to work
d) works
- Do you know the boy ___ over there?
a) stands
b) stood
c) to stand
d) standing
- The road ___ to the village is very narrow.
a) leading
b) led
c) to lead
d) leads
- I spoke to the woman ___ the red car.
a) drives
b) to drive
c) drove
d) driving
- There's a letter on your desk ___ immediate attention.
a) requires
b) required
c) requiring
d) to require
- The children ___ in the garden are my neighbours' kids.
a) played
b) plays
c) playing
d) to play
- She has a brother ___ in New York.
a) living
b) to live
c) lived
d) lives
- The train ___ at Platform 3 is the 9:15 to London.
a) arrives
b) arriving
c) arrived
d) to arrive
- Can you see the cat ___ on the roof?
a) to sit
b) sits
c) sat
d) sitting
- The river ___ through the town often floods in spring.
a) flows
b) to flow
c) flowing
d) flowed
- The window ___ in the storm needs to be repaired.
a) breaking
b) broken
c) to break
d) breaks



Answers

1. b) working
2. d) standing
3. a) leading
4. d) driving
5. c) requiring
6. c) playing
7. a) living
8. b) arriving
9. d) sitting
10. c) flowing
11. b) broken
12. d) sent
13. a) waiting
14. b) belonging
15. d) published
16. a) wearing
17. c) wishing
18. b) studying
19. c) running
20. a) displayed



Explanations

1. “working” (b)

'Working' replaces the active relative clause 'who works / who is working at the reception desk.' Use the present participle (-ing) to reduce an active relative clause.

2. “standing” (d)

'Standing' replaces 'who is standing over there.' Use the -ing form to make a reduced active relative clause.

3. “leading” (a)

'Leading' replaces the relative clause 'that leads to the village.' A present participle can reduce a clause with any active verb, not just continuous tenses.

4. “driving” (d)

'Driving' replaces 'who was driving the red car.' The present participle reduces the active relative clause.

5. “requiring” (c)

'Requiring' replaces 'that requires immediate attention.' The -ing form reduces the active relative clause.

6. “playing” (c)

'Playing' replaces 'who are playing in the garden.' The present participle makes the sentence shorter while keeping the same meaning.

7. “living” (a)

'Living' replaces 'who lives in New York.' The -ing form reduces the active relative clause describing the brother.

8. “arriving” (b)

'Arriving' replaces 'that is arriving at Platform 3.' The present participle creates a reduced relative clause.

9. “sitting” (d)

'Sitting' replaces 'that is sitting on the roof.' Use the -ing form to reduce an active relative clause.

10. “flowing” (c)

'Flowing' replaces 'that flows through the town.' The present participle reduces the active relative clause describing the river.

11. “broken” (b)

Use the past participle 'broken' because the window was broken (passive meaning). This reduces a passive relative clause: 'which was broken in the storm.' Compare: 'breaking' would mean the window is actively breaking something.

12. “sent” (d)

'Sent' is a past participle replacing the passive relative clause 'which was sent by the manager.' When the subject receives the action (passive), use the past participle, not -ing.

13. “waiting” (a)

'Waiting' replaces 'who were waiting for the bus.' The people are actively waiting, so use the present participle.

14. “belonging” (b)

'Belonging' replaces the relative clause 'that belongs to a man named James.' The -ing form works with stative verbs like 'belong' in reduced relative clauses.

15. “published” (d)

Use the past participle 'published' because the report was published (passive). This reduces the passive relative clause 'which was published last week.'

16. “wearing” (a)

'Wearing' replaces 'who is wearing the blue jacket.' The present participle reduces the active relative clause identifying the man.

17. “wishing” (c)

'Wishing' replaces 'who wishes to join the club.' The present participle reduces the active relative clause. This pattern is common with indefinite pronouns like 'anyone' and 'those.'

18. “studying” (b)

'Studying' replaces 'who were studying in the library.' The present participle shows an ongoing active action.

19. “running” (c)

'Running' replaces 'that is running along the beach.' The present participle reduces the active relative clause.

20. “displayed” (a)

Use the past participle 'displayed' because the paintings are displayed (passive). This reduces the passive relative clause 'which are displayed in this gallery.' The paintings are not displaying something — they are being displayed.