



Participle Clauses:

Advanced Participle Clauses: Absolute Constructions & Formal Usage

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- ____, the rescue team had no choice but to postpone the search.
a) Being almost zero visibility
b) Having been almost zero visibility
c) Visibility being almost zero
d) Almost zero visibility being
- ____, we set off on our journey at dawn.
a) Everything packed and ready
b) Having packed everything and ready
c) Packing everything and ready
d) Being everything packed and ready
- ____, the professor moved on to the next chapter.
a) Being no further questions
b) No further questions having
c) Not being further questions
d) There being no further questions
- The CEO delivered a confident address to shareholders, ____.
a) being steady and unwavering her voice
b) her voice steady and unwavering
c) her voice being steadily and unwaveringly
d) steadily and unwaveringly her voice
- ____ by the nursing staff, the surgeon proceeded with the operation.
a) All preparations having been completed
b) Having completed all preparations
c) Completing all preparations
d) All preparations completed having been
- ____, the teacher struggled to maintain order in the classroom.
a) Having so many students talked at once
b) Being so many students talking at once
c) With so many students talking at once
d) For so many students talking at once
- She sat at her desk, ____.
a) with her eyes fixing on the screen
b) with her eyes to fix on the screen
c) fixing on the screen her eyes
d) with her eyes fixed on the screen
- ____, the old house looked even more mysterious than usual.
a) Its windows boarding up
b) With its windows boarded up
c) Having its windows boarded up
d) Boarded up its windows
- ____, the building was evacuated immediately.
a) With smoke pouring from the windows
b) With smoke being pour from the windows
c) Pouring from the windows smoke
d) With smoke poured from the windows

10. Walking through the ancient ruins, ____.
- a hidden chamber was discovered by the archaeologist
 - the archaeologist discovered a hidden chamber
 - the discovery of a hidden chamber was announced
 - a hidden chamber surprised the archaeologist
11. Having been revised extensively, ____.
- the author submitted the manuscript for publication
 - publication of the manuscript was imminent
 - several editors had contributed their expertise
 - the manuscript was finally ready for publication
12. Exhausted from the ten-hour flight, ____.
- the passengers could barely keep their eyes open
 - the airport felt busier than ever
 - sleep was all that anyone could think about
 - baggage claim took another thirty minutes
13. Carefully analysing the financial data, ____.
- several discrepancies became apparent
 - a pattern of irregularities emerged
 - the auditor identified several discrepancies
 - a comprehensive report was eventually produced
14. The research, ____ over a five-year period, provided compelling evidence that challenged the existing theory.
- conducting
 - being conducted
 - having conducted
 - having been conducted
15. ____ the limitations of the sample size, the researchers urge caution in interpreting the results.
- Having been acknowledging
 - Acknowledging
 - Being acknowledged
 - Acknowledged
16. The suspect, ____ to have fled the country, is now the subject of an international manhunt.
- believing
 - having believed
 - believed
 - being believing
17. The proposal, ____ by the board to lack sufficient financial backing, was returned to the committee for revision.
- deemed
 - deeming
 - having been deeming
 - to deem
18. ____ the email the previous week, she was confused when her colleague mentioned it as new information.
- Already reading
 - Read already
 - Being already read
 - Having already read
19. The contract ____ by both parties, the merger was officially set in motion.
- signing
 - has signed
 - having been signed
 - being signed
20. ____, all diplomatic efforts were abandoned.
- Not reaching a compromise
 - No compromise having been reached
 - Having not reached a compromise
 - A compromise not reaching



Answers

1. c) Visibility being almost zero
2. a) Everything packed and ready
3. d) There being no further questions
4. b) her voice steady and unwavering
5. a) All preparations having been completed
6. c) With so many students talking at once
7. d) with her eyes fixed on the screen
8. b) With its windows boarded up
9. a) With smoke pouring from the windows
10. b) the archaeologist discovered a hidden chamber
11. d) the manuscript was finally ready for publication
12. a) the passengers could barely keep their eyes open
13. c) the auditor identified several discrepancies
14. d) having been conducted
15. b) Acknowledging
16. c) believed
17. a) deemed
18. d) Having already read
19. c) having been signed
20. b) No compromise having been reached



Explanations

1. “Visibility being almost zero” (c)

This is an absolute (nominative absolute) construction where the participle clause has its own subject ('visibility') different from the main clause subject ('the rescue team'). The structure is: noun + participle. 'Visibility being almost zero' = 'Because visibility was almost zero.' The other options have incorrect word order — in absolute constructions, the noun subject must come before the participle.

2. “Everything packed and ready” (a)

'Everything packed and ready' is an absolute construction with an implied 'being' — 'Everything [being] packed and ready.' The subject 'everything' differs from the main clause subject 'we.' Option B ('Having packed everything and ready') has faulty parallel structure: you cannot coordinate a participial phrase ('having packed') with a bare adjective ('ready') — it would need 'and being ready.' Option D has incorrect word order for an absolute construction.

3. “There being no further questions” (d)

'There being no further questions' is an absolute construction using the existential 'there' as the subject of the participle clause. This formal structure means 'Since there were no further questions.' Options A and C lack the required 'there' for the existential construction. Option B ('No further questions having') is incomplete — 'having' requires a complement.

4. “her voice steady and unwavering” (b)

'Her voice steady and unwavering' is an absolute construction placed after the main clause, with an implied 'being': 'her voice [being] steady and unwavering.' The noun ('her voice') is followed by adjectives describing its state. Option C incorrectly uses adverbs ('steadily,' 'unwaveringly') instead of adjectives — after a linking verb like 'being,' adjective complements are required, not adverbs.

5. “All preparations having been completed” (a)

'All preparations having been completed' is an absolute construction with a perfect passive participle. The subject 'all preparations' differs from the main clause subject 'the surgeon.' Options B and C use active participles ('Having completed,' 'Completing'), which would make the surgeon the agent — but 'by the nursing staff' in the stem assigns the agent to someone else, creating a grammatical conflict between active voice and a passive agent phrase.

6. “With so many students talking at once” (c)

'With so many students talking at once' is a with-clause — a type of absolute construction introduced by 'with.' The structure is: with + noun + present participle. The present participle 'talking' indicates an ongoing action. 'For' (D) does not introduce participle clauses. Options A and B are ungrammatical constructions that do not follow any standard participial pattern.

7. “with her eyes fixed on the screen” (d)

'With her eyes fixed on the screen' is a with-clause where the past participle 'fixed' describes the passive state of her eyes — they were fixed (directed and held) on the screen. Option A ('fixing') incorrectly uses the present participle — in standard English, eyes are 'fixed on' something (passive state), they do not actively 'fix on' something. Option B uses an infinitive, which is not valid in with-clauses. Option C has incorrect word order.

8. “With its windows boarded up” (b)

'With its windows boarded up' is a with-clause describing the state of the house. The past participle 'boarded up' indicates a passive state — the windows had been boarded up by someone. Option A ('boarding up') uses the present participle incorrectly — windows cannot actively board themselves up. Option C illogically suggests the house itself 'had boarded' its own windows. Option D is not a valid clause structure.

9. “With smoke pouring from the windows” (a)

'With smoke pouring from the windows' is a with-clause where the present participle 'pouring' describes an ongoing action — smoke actively pours (intransitive). Option B ('being pour') is ungrammatical — it should be 'being poured' at minimum, but smoke is not 'poured' by anyone. Option D ('poured') incorrectly uses a past participle implying passive voice, but 'pour' here is intransitive — smoke pours by itself, it is not poured by an external agent.

10. “the archaeologist discovered a hidden chamber” (b)

When a sentence begins with a participle clause ('Walking through the ancient ruins'), the subject of the main clause must be the person performing that action. Only 'the archaeologist' can logically walk through ruins. Option A creates a dangling participle — 'a hidden chamber' cannot walk. Option C dangles — 'the discovery' cannot walk. Option D dangles — 'a hidden chamber' cannot walk. Dangling participles are a common error that C1 learners must recognise and avoid.

11. “the manuscript was finally ready for publication” (d)

'Having been revised extensively' uses the passive perfect participle — the subject of the main clause must be the thing that was revised. Only 'the manuscript' (D) was revised. Option A creates a dangling participle — the author was not revised. Option B dangles — publication was not revised. Option C dangles — editors were not revised. In formal writing, maintaining correct subject alignment between participle clauses and main clauses is essential.

12. “the passengers could barely keep their eyes open” (a)

The past participle 'Exhausted' requires the main clause subject to be the entity that is exhausted. Only 'the passengers' (A) can be exhausted from a flight. 'The airport' (B) cannot be exhausted from a flight. 'Sleep' (C) cannot be exhausted. 'Baggage claim' (D) cannot be exhausted. This is a classic dangling participle test — always check whether the implied subject of the participle matches the actual subject of the main clause.

13. “the auditor identified several discrepancies” (c)

'Carefully analysing the financial data' requires the main clause subject to be the person doing the analysing. Only 'the auditor' (C) can analyse data. 'Several discrepancies' (A) cannot analyse. 'A pattern' (B) cannot analyse. 'A comprehensive report' (D) cannot analyse. Note how tempting options A and B are — they describe logical outcomes of analysis, but they create dangling participles because their subjects cannot perform the action of analysing.

14. “having been conducted” (d)

'Having been conducted' is the passive perfect participle. The research was conducted (passive — someone conducted it) over five years, and it provided evidence (past tense — the research is complete). Option A ('conducting') is active — research cannot conduct something. Option B ('being conducted') implies the research is still ongoing, but 'provided' and 'challenged' (past tense) make clear the research is finished and has already yielded results. Option C ('having conducted') is active perfect — research cannot have conducted something.

15. “Acknowledging” (b)

'Acknowledging' is the correct present participle — the researchers are actively acknowledging (admitting) the limitations as they urge caution. These are simultaneous actions. Option A ('Having been acknowledging') is ungrammatical — the continuous form cannot follow 'having been.' Option C ('Being acknowledged') is passive — the researchers are not being acknowledged by someone. Option D ('Acknowledged') as a past participle implies the researchers were acknowledged (passive), changing the meaning entirely.

16. “believed” (c)

'Believed to have fled the country' is a past participle clause in formal register, common in news reporting. It reduces the passive relative clause 'who is believed to have fled.' The suspect is believed (by authorities) to have fled — passive meaning. Option A ('believing') would mean the suspect believes something, completely changing the meaning. Option B ('having believed') would mean the suspect had previously believed something. Option D ('being believing') is ungrammatical.

17. “deemed” (a)

'Deemed by the board' is a past participle clause in formal register, reducing the passive relative clause 'which was deemed by the board.' The proposal was deemed (judged — passive) to lack backing. Option B ('deeming') is active — the proposal cannot deem anything. Option C ('having been deeming') is ungrammatical — the continuous form cannot follow 'having been.' This construction is common in formal business and legal English.

18. “Having already read” (d)

'Having already read' is the perfect participle, indicating a completed action before the main clause event. She had finished reading the email the previous week, so she was confused when it was presented as new. Option A ('Already reading') uses the present participle, which implies an ongoing action — but 'the previous week' marks a completed past time, and her confusion stems from having finished reading, not being mid-read. Option B ('Read already') has incorrect word order. Option C ('Being already read') is passive — she wasn't being read.

19. “having been signed” (c)

'The contract having been signed' is an absolute construction with a perfect passive participle. The subject 'the contract' differs from the main clause subject 'the merger.' The perfect participle shows the signing was completed before the merger began. Option A ('signing') is active — a contract cannot sign. Option B ('has signed') is a finite verb that cannot appear in a participle clause. Option D ('being signed') implies the signing is still in progress, contradicting 'officially set in motion' (which requires completion).

20. “No compromise having been reached” (b)

'No compromise having been reached' is an absolute construction with a perfect passive participle. The subject 'no compromise' differs from the main clause subject 'all diplomatic efforts.' Options A and C create dangling participles — 'diplomatic efforts' cannot 'reach' or 'have reached' a compromise (people reach compromises, not efforts). Option D is ungrammatical — 'a compromise' cannot actively 'reach.' The absolute construction elegantly avoids the dangling participle problem by giving the participle its own subject.