

# Participle constructions to express [ausdrücken] reason and time

Participle constructions can replace relative clauses (mostly in written English). But they can also be used in place [anstelle von] of other sub-clauses [Nebensätze], for example instead of adverbial clauses of reason [Grund] or of time. In German these clauses are called „Kausalsätze“ (reason) and „Temporalsätze“ (time).

## Participle construction to express a reason

#	Adverbial clause construction	Participle construction
1	<b>As [= because] he was listening</b> to loud music he didn't hear the phone.	<b>Listening</b> to loud music he didn't hear the phone
2	<b>As Peter was standing</b> next to Anne he heard everything she said.	<b>Standing</b> next to Anne <b>Peter</b> heard everything she said.
3	<b>As she was given</b> only a small portion of food, Sarah was hungry for the rest of the evening.	<b>Given</b> only a small portion of food, Sarah was hungry for the rest of the evening.
4	<b>As Jack is contacted</b> by many people every day, he doesn't have time to answer all requests [Anfragen]	<b>Contacted</b> by many people every day, <b>Jack</b> doesn't have time to answer all requests.



- The participle construction on the right replaces [ersetzen] the adverbial clause construction on the left (this is similar [ähnlich] to the [participle construction instead of a relative clause](#)). The meaning of both constructions is the same. Participle constructions are especially common in written English. They sound more formal [förmlich] than relative clauses.
- The **present participle** has an **active** meaning (walking) and the **past participle** has a **passive** meaning (mentioned).
- In German, you usually translate a participle construction with an adverbial clause because the German language doesn't have such a construction (e.g. „Als...“, „Weil ...“, „Da ...“)

## Participle construction to express time