

Participle constructions instead of relative clauses

What are participles and how can they be used?

There are two different participle forms in English. Here's how they are formed:

1. the **present participle**: it is formed by adding “-ing” to the end of the verb (e.g. talking, listening, writing)
2. the **past participle**: it is formed by adding “-ed” to the end of the verb, it is the “3rd verb form” of any verb (e.g. talked, listened, written)

How are they used?

Both participles are part of various [verschieden] other grammar constructions, e.g.

1. the **present participle**
 1. is part of the progressive form (I am **walking**)
 2. can be used to make an (active) adjective from a verb (the **winning** team)
 3. can be used as a gerund (**Walking** is good for you)
2. the **past participle**
 1. is part of the perfect verb forms – present perfect and past perfect (I have **walked**, I had **walked**)
 2. can be used to make a (passive) adjective from a verb (the **defeated** team)

On this page, you can learn another common [verbreitet] use of participles: They can be used to replace [ersetzen] relative clauses.

Participles to replace relative clauses

Speakers of English often use participle constructions instead of relative clauses. Compare the following constructions. Both [of] them have the same meaning.

relative clause construction	participle construction
The person who was walking next to me looked really tired.	The pupil walking next to me looked really tired.
We visited the city which was mentioned in our travel guide.	We visited the city mentioned in our travel guide.

- As you can see, the participle construction on the right replaces [ersetzen] the relative clause construction on the left.

- 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 a relative clause because the German language doesn't have such a construction.

Practice

- [Participles, Participle constructions](#)
- [Participles \(Partizipien\)](#)