

Participle Phrases in Initial Position

Participle phrases at the beginning of a sentence add extra information about the main action or the subject of the sentence. They are often used to avoid repetition and to shorten complex sentences. A participle phrase doesn't contain a subject. Here, in this short lesson, you learn how you can use these phrases in three different ways:

1. Begin with a *present participle* to describe an action in progress at the same time as the action in the main clause. For example:
Feeling overwhelmed by the crowd, he quickly made his way to the exit.
 2. Begin with *having* + *past participle* to describe an action that happened before the action in the main clause. For example:
Having experienced the beauty of a desert sunset, she became determined to move to Arizona.
 3. Begin with *a past participle* to describe the subject of the sentence (in the main clause). For example:
Convinced this was his last chance, John dropped everything and ran to catch the train.
- Participle phrases in initial position sound formal and are more common in writing than in speech.