

Present Participles

A present participle is a form of a verb that ends in *ing*. It is a word derived from a verb that can be used as an adjective or to form continuous verb tenses. Here, it is explained how present participles can be used to shorten some of our sentences in two different ways:

1. To shorten sentences that describe two events happening at the same time, use the present participle of the second verb after a comma. Do not use *and*. For example:

I often work and listen to music.

I often work, listening to music.

2. To shorten relative clauses which modify or provide information about the sentence's subject. In reduced relative clauses, use the present participle instead of using the relative pronoun and the verb. For example:

Look at all those lemons that are growing on that tree.

Look at all those lemons growing on that tree.

Exercise

Rewrite these sentences to shorten them, using the points above.

1. *The mall is full of people who are shopping for the holidays.*

2. *We're standing in line and waiting to check in for our flight.*

3. *There are a lot of fans who are waiting outside the stadium.*

4. *I love to stand on top of that hill and look down at the valley.*

5. *In college, I saw a guy who was skateboarding down a hallway.*

6. *The storm will affect people who live in the South.*