

**-ing clauses (He hurt his knee **playing** football.)****A**

Study this example:

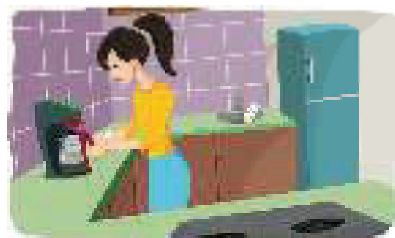
Kate is in the kitchen. She's making coffee.

You can say:

- ☐ Kate is in the kitchen **making coffee**.  
-ing clause

You can use **-ing** in this way when two things happen at the same time:

- ☐ A man ran out of the house **shouting**.  
 (= he ran out of the house *and* he was shouting)
- ☐ Do something! Don't just stand there **doing nothing**!
- ☐ Be careful **crossing the road**.



We also use **-ing** when one action happens during another action:

- ☐ Joe hurt his knee **playing football**. (= while he was playing)
- ☐ Did you cut yourself **shaving**? (= while you were shaving)

You can also say '**while doing** something' and '**when doing** something':

- ☐ Joe hurt his knee **while playing** football.
- ☐ Be careful **when crossing** the road. (= when you are crossing)

**B**

When one action happens before something else, we use **having (done)** for the first action:

- ☐ **Having found** a hotel, we looked for somewhere to eat.
- ☐ **Having finished** her work, she went home.

You can also say **after -ing**:

- ☐ **After finishing** her work, she went home.

These structures are used more in written English than in spoken English.

When we begin a sentence with '**Having** (done something)' or '**After** (doing something)', we write a comma (,) after this part of the sentence:

- ☐ **Having finished her work**, she went home.

↑  
comma

**C**

You can also use **-ing** to explain something, or to say why somebody does something.

The sentence usually begins with **-ing**:

- ☐ **Feeling tired**, I went to bed early. (= because I felt tired)  
-ing clause
- ☐ **Being** unemployed, he doesn't have much money. (= because he is unemployed)
- ☐ **Not having** a car, she finds it difficult to get around.  
 (= because she doesn't have a car)

We use **having (done)** for something that is complete before something else:

- ☐ **Having seen** the film twice, I didn't want to see it again.  
 (= because I had seen it twice)

These structures are used more in written English than in spoken English.

When we begin a sentence with **-ing (Feeling tired ... / Not knowing ... / Having seen ... etc.)**, we write a comma (,) after this part of the sentence.

- ☐ **Not knowing what to do**, I called my friend to ask her advice.

## Exercises

68.1 Choose from Box A and Box B to make sentences. Use **-ing**.

- |  |  |
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| <p><b>A</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <del>Kate was in the kitchen.</del></li> <li>2 Amy was sitting in an armchair.</li> <li>3 Nicola opened the door carefully.</li> <li>4 Sarah went out.</li> <li>5 Lisa worked in Rome for two years.</li> <li>6 Anna walked around the town.</li> </ol> | <p><b>B</b></p> <p>She was trying not to make a noise.<br/>         She looked at the sights and took pictures.<br/>         She said she would be back in an hour.<br/>         She was reading a book.<br/> <del>She was making coffee.</del><br/>         She was teaching English.</p> |
|--|--|

- 1 Kate was in the kitchen making coffee.
- 2 Amy was sitting in an armchair .....
- 3 Nicola .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....

## 68.2 Put the words in the right order.

- 1 Joe (knee / football / his / hurt / playing) Joe hurt his knee playing football.
- 2 I (in the rain / wet / got / very / walking)  
I .....
- 3 Laura (to work / had / driving / an accident)  
Laura .....
- 4 My friend (off / slipped / a bus / getting / and fell)  
My friend .....
- 5 Emily (trying / her back / a heavy box / to lift / hurt)  
Emily .....
- 6 Two people were (to put out / by smoke / the fire / overcome / trying)  
Two people were .....

68.3 Complete the sentences. Use **Having + a suitable verb**.

- 1 Having finished her work, Katherine left the office and went home.
- 2 ..... our tickets, we went into the theatre and took our seats.
- 3 ..... the problem, I think we'll be able to find a solution.
- 4 ..... he was hungry, Joe now says he doesn't want to eat anything.
- 5 ..... his job recently, James is now unemployed.
- 6 ..... most of his life in London, Sam has now gone to live in a small village in the country.

68.4 Make one sentence from two. Begin with **-ing** or **Not -ing**. Sometimes you need to begin with **Having ...**. Don't forget the comma (,).

- 1 I felt tired. So I went to bed early.  
Feeling tired, I went to bed early.
- 2 I thought they might be hungry. So I offered them something to eat.  
..... I offered them something to eat.
- 3 Robert is a vegetarian. So he doesn't eat any kind of meat.  
..... Robert doesn't eat any kind of meat.
- 4 I didn't have a phone. So I had no way of contacting anyone.  
..... I had no way of contacting anyone.
- 5 Sarah has travelled a lot. So she knows a lot about other countries.  
..... Sarah knows a lot about other countries.
- 6 I wasn't able to speak the local language. So I had trouble communicating.  
..... I had trouble communicating.
- 7 We had spent nearly all our money. So we couldn't afford to stay at a hotel.  
..... we couldn't afford to stay at a hotel.