

-ing and -ed clauses (the woman **talking to Tom**, the boy **injured in the accident**)

A

A *clause* is a part of a sentence. Some clauses begin with **-ing**. For example:

Who is the woman **talking to Tom**?
 -ing clause

the woman
talking to Tom



We use **-ing** clauses to say what somebody (or something) is (or was) doing at a particular time:

- ☐ Who is the woman **talking to Tom**? (the woman **is talking** to Tom)
- ☐ Police **investigating the crime** are looking for three men. (police **are investigating** the crime)
- ☐ Who were those people **waiting outside**? (they **were waiting**)
- ☐ I was woken up by a bell **ringing**. (a bell **was ringing**)

You can also use an **-ing** clause to say what happens all the time, not just at a particular time:

- ☐ The road **connecting the two villages** is very narrow. (the road **connects** the two villages)
- ☐ I have a large room **overlooking the garden**. (the room **overlooks** the garden)
- ☐ Can you think of the name of a flower **beginning with T**? (the name **begins** with T)

B

Some clauses begin with **-ed** (**injured, painted** etc.). For example:

The boy **injured in the accident** was taken to hospital.
 -ed clause

the boy injured
in the accident



-ed clauses have a *passive* meaning:

- ☐ The boy **injured in the accident** was taken to hospital.
(he **was injured** in the accident)
- ☐ George showed me some pictures **painted by his father**.
(they **were painted** by his father)
- ☐ The gun **used in the robbery** has been found.
(the gun **was used** in the robbery)

Injured/painted/used are *past participles*. Most past participles end in **-ed**, but many are irregular (**stolen/made/built** etc.):

- ☐ The police never found the money **stolen in the robbery**.
- ☐ Most of the goods **made in this factory** are exported.

C

You can use **there is / there was** (etc.) + **-ing** and **-ed** clauses:

- ☐ **There were** some children **swimming** in the river.
- ☐ **Is there** anybody **waiting**?
- ☐ **There was** a big red car **parked** outside the house.

We use **left** in this way, with the meaning 'not used, still there':

- ☐ We've eaten nearly all the chocolates. **There are** only a few **left**.

Exercises

97.1 Make one sentence from two. Complete the sentence using an **-ing** clause.

- 1 A bell was ringing. I was woken up by it.
I was woken up by a bell ringing.
- 2 A taxi was taking us to the airport. It broke down.
The broke down.
- 3 There's a path at the end of this street. The path leads to the river.
At the end of the street there's
- 4 A factory has just opened in the town. It employs 500 people.
..... has just opened in the town.
- 5 A man was sitting next to me on the plane. He was asleep most of the time.
The was asleep most of the time.
- 6 The company sent me a brochure. It contained the information I needed.
The company sent me a

97.2 Complete the sentence with an **-ed** clause. Choose from:

damaged in the storm
involved in the project

made at the meeting
stolen from the museum

injured in the accident
surrounded by trees

- 1 The boy injured in the accident was taken to hospital.
- 2 The paintings haven't been found yet.
- 3 We've repaired the gate
- 4 Most of the suggestions were not practical.
- 5 Our friends live in a beautiful house
- 6 Everybody worked very well.

97.3 Complete the sentences. Use the following verbs in the correct form:

blow call cause invite live offer paint read ring sit study work

- 1 I was woken up by a bell ringing.
- 2 George showed me some pictures painted by his father.
- 3 Some of the people to the party can't come.
- 4 Somebody Jack phoned while you were out.
- 5 Life must be very unpleasant for people near busy airports.
- 6 A few days after the interview, I received an email me the job.
- 7 The building was badly damaged in a fire by an electrical fault.
- 8 Did you see the picture of the trees down in the storm?
- 9 The waiting room was empty except for an old man in the corner
..... a magazine.
- 10 Ian has a brother in a bank in London and a sister
economics at university in Manchester.

97.4 Use the words in brackets to make sentences with **There is / There was** etc.

- 1 That house is empty. (nobody / live / in it) There's nobody living in it.
- 2 The accident wasn't serious. (nobody / injure) There was nobody injured.
- 3 I can hear footsteps. (somebody / come) There
- 4 I've spent all the money I had. (nothing / leave) There
- 5 The train was full. (a lot of people / travel)
.....
- 6 We were the only guests at the hotel. (nobody else / stay there)
.....
- 7 The piece of paper was blank. (nothing / write / on it)
.....
- 8 The college offers English courses in the evening. (a course / begin / next Monday)
.....