

Book: Passages 2

Level: 11th

Unit: 3

Objective: Practice using -ing clauses.

-ing clauses

A *clause* is a part of a sentence. Some sentences have two or more clauses:

- Jim hurt his arm **playing tennis**.

Playing tennis ⇒ *ing clause*

Jim hurt himself ⇒ *main clause*

- **Feeling tired**, I went to bed early.

Feeling tired ⇒ *ing clause*

I went to bed early ⇒ *main clause*

"Playing tennis" and "feeling tired" are **-ing** clauses.

If the **-ing** clause is first (as in the second example), we write a comma (,) between the clauses.

* **When two things happen at the same time**, you can use **-ing** for one of the verbs. The main clause usually comes first:

- I've just seen Carol **having a drink** in the bar.
(= she is in the bar *and* she is having a drink)
- **A man ran out of the house shouting**.
(= he ran out of the house *and* he was shouting)

We also use -ing when one action happens during another action. We use **-ing** for the longer action. The longer action is the second part of the sentence:

- Jim hurt his arm **playing tennis**.
(= while he was playing)
- Did you cut yourself **shaving**?
(= while you were shaving)



Did you cut yourself **shaving**?

* When one action happens before another action, we use **having + past participle** for the first action:

- **Having found** a hotel, we looked for somewhere to have dinner.
(= we found a hotel, then we looked for somewhere to have dinner)
- **Having finished** her work, she went home.
(= she finished her work, then she went home)

* You can use an **-ing** clause to explain something or to say why somebody does something. The **-ing** clause usually comes first:

- **Being unemployed**, he hasn't got much money.
(= because he is unemployed)

