participle clauses

Participle clauses:

- **Participles (-ing and -ed forms)** can introduce clauses (without conjunctions). This is rather formal, and is more common in writing than in speech.

  - *Looking out of the window,* Harry saw that it was snowing again.
  - *Knowing what he was like,* I was careful to be polite.
  - *Not being a very sociable person,* he found a seat where he could be by himself.
  - *Alice had a violent row with Peter,* completely ruining the evening.
  - *Having found what I was looking for,* I went back home.
  - *Stored in a cool place,* this bread will last for weeks.

1. **Rewrite the sentences with participle clauses.**

   1. *As I didn't want* to upset everybody, I said nothing.
   2. *On Friday George arrived,* and brought news from the Irish cousins.
   3. *The dog rushed round the room,* and broke one priceless ornament after another.
   4. *As I knew* what he liked, I sent him a large bouquet of orchids.
   5. *If it is fried in butter,* it should taste delicious.
   7. *As I was not in a hurry,* I stopped for a coffee and a sandwich.
   8. *As he had lost* all his money, he had no way of getting home.

2. **Grammar in a text: Put the participles from the box into the text.**

   - belonging, checking, getting, protected, provided, satisfied, shooting, sipping, stolen, stopping, walking, watching

   Carson was sitting comfortably in the deep leather armchair that had belonged to his father, 1. .................. his drink and 2. .................. a rather bad comedy programme. As he relaxed into the evening, a black saloon, 3. .................. earlier from outside a hotel in Kensington and immediately 4. .................. with new licence plates, drifted slowly down the street outside his house. It was a street of big houses, 5. .................. by tall hedges and well-kept gardens, and obviously 6. .................. to people with few money worries. This was the driver's third time round, 7. .................. for pedestrians, people in parked cars, or any other possible witnesses. Finally 8. .................. , he pulled over to the side of the road, 9. .................. just outside Carson's driveway, and switched off the engine. The doors opened at once, all four of them 10. .................. out, Henry 11. .................. out the nearest street light with a silenced .22 as they did so. They moved quickly into the driveway, Marco first, Pepe last, 12. .................. backwards to make sure no one was watching, and went quietly up to the front door.
'misrelated' participles  The subject of a participle clause is normally the same as the subject of the main clause, and it is generally considered incorrect to mix subjects, at least in formal writing. Compare:

**Standing by the window**, Sue gazed at the mountains. (Sue stood; Sue gazed)
**Standing by the window**, the mountains seemed very close.

(This sounds as if the mountains were standing by the window.)

However, mixed subjects are common when one of them is *it* or *there*.

Being French, *it* is surprising that she is such a terrible cook.
Having so little time, *there* was not much that I could do.

This also happens with some fixed expressions describing the speaker’s attitude (e.g. *generally speaking*, judging from …, considering …, taking everything into consideration.)

**Generally speaking**, men can run faster than women.
**Judging from his expression**, he was in a bad mood.

3 Circle the best continuation.

1 Getting out of the car, Mrs Perkins / the pavement …
2 Working late at night, a noise / Josie …
3 Starting German lessons, the verbs / I …
4 Looking out of the window, Sandra / a taxi …
5 Sitting in the front row at the circus, an elephant / the children …
6 Waking up suddenly, I / a smell of burning …

4 Correct (√) or not (✗)?

1 Considering everything, the holiday was a success. …
2 Running up the stairs, my wallet fell out of my pocket. …
3 Brushing her teeth, a thought suddenly occurred to her. …
4 Generally speaking, children don’t like green vegetables. …
5 Looking under the bed, I found a book that I’d lost. …
6 Being short of time, the housework didn’t get done. …

own subject  If necessary, a participle clause can have its own subject.

**Nobody** having anything more to say, the meeting broke up.
**Hands** held high, the dancers circle to the left.

5 Add subjects from the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>her doll</th>
<th>her smile</th>
<th>smoke</th>
<th>the fire</th>
<th>the school hall</th>
<th>the treasurer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
1 …………………………… having gone out, the room began to feel quite cold.
2 A little girl walked past, …………………………… dragging behind her on the pavement.
3 A car roared round the corner, …………………………… pouring from the exhaust.
4 …………………………… being much too small, the concert was held outside.
5 …………………………… fixed in place as if with glue, the Princess distributed the prizes.
6 …………………………… having finished his report, questions were invited from the members.