

## Unit 67 -ing clauses - 'Feeling tired, I went to bed early.'

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

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

In this sentence, 'I went to bed early' is the *main clause*.  
**Feeling tired** is the *-ing clause*.

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

- **She was sitting in an armchair reading a book.** (= she was sitting and she was reading)
- **I ran out of the house shouting.** (= I was shouting when I ran out of the house)

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

- **Jim hurt his arm while playing tennis.** (= while he was playing)
- **Be careful when crossing the road.** (= when you are crossing)

**c** When one action happens before another action, you can use **having (done)** for the first action:

- **Having found a hotel, they looked for somewhere to have dinner.**
- **Having finished our work, we went home.**

You could also say **After -ing**:

- **After finishing our work, we went home.**

If the second action happens immediately after the first, you can use the simple **-ing** form (**doing** instead of **having done**):

- **Taking a key out of his pocket, he opened the door.**

These structures are used mainly in written English.

**d** You can also use an **-ing** clause to explain something or to say why someone did something. The **-ing** clause usually comes first:

- **Feeling tired, I went to bed early.** (= because I felt tired)
- **Being unemployed, he hasn't got much money.** (= because he is unemployed)
- **Not having a car, she finds it difficult to get around.** (= because she doesn't have a car)
- **Having already seen the film twice, I didn't want to go to the cinema.** (= because I had already seen it twice)

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