Participle clauses with -ing and -ed

An -ing clause can show an action happening at the same time as the main action.

Use an opening -ing clause for an action that happens at the same time or very close in time to the main action. Keep the understood subject the same as the subject of the main clause.

Worked example

Entering the classroom, I put my bag away.

Complete each English sentence with the participle phrase that matches the Spanish sentence.

01. Al entrar en el aula, encontré una mesa libre.
_____, I found a free table.

02. Al entrar en el aula, guardé el abrigo en el armario.
_____, I put my coat in the closet.

03. Al entrar en el aula, saludé a la recepcionista.
_____, I greeted the receptionist.

04. Al entrar en el aula, miré el horario de clases.
_____, I checked the class schedule.

05. Al abrir el correo, leí el mensaje completo.
_____, I read the whole message.

06. Al abrir el correo, respondí a la pregunta de Ana.
_____, I answered Ana’s question.

07. Al abrir el correo, añadí la cita al calendario.
_____, I added the appointment to my calendar.

08. Al abrir el correo, descargué el archivo adjunto.
_____, I downloaded the attachment.

09. Mientras consultaba el mapa, evité una zona con obras.
_____, I avoided an area with roadworks.

10. Mientras consultaba el mapa, calculé cuánto tardaría el viaje.
_____, I worked out how long the trip would take.

11. Mientras consultaba el mapa, marqué el cruce en la pantalla.
_____, I marked the junction on the screen.

12. Mientras consultaba el mapa, llamé para confirmar la dirección.
_____, I called to confirm the address.

13. Al acercarme a la parada, saqué el billete de la mochila.
_____, I took my ticket out of my backpack.

14. Al acercarme a la parada, me puse detrás de la línea amarilla.
_____, I stood behind the yellow line.

15. Al acercarme a la parada, pregunté si quedaban asientos.
_____, I asked if there were any seats left.

16. Al acercarme a la parada, comprobé el número de la ruta.
_____, I checked the route number.

17. Mientras preparaba el desayuno, puse la mesa para dos.
_____, I set the table for two.

18. Mientras preparaba el desayuno, corté algo de fruta.
_____, I cut up some fruit.

19. Mientras preparaba el desayuno, preparé café para todos.
_____, I made coffee for everyone.

20. Mientras preparaba el desayuno, saqué el pan del horno.
_____, I took the bread out of the oven.

Opening -ing clauses: actions in progress

Continue. Complete only the gap in English.

21. Al ver el cartel, hice una foto del horario.
_____, I took a photo of the schedule.

22. Al ver el cartel, guardé el número en el teléfono.
_____, I saved the number on my phone.

23. Al ver el cartel, pregunté por la entrada principal.
_____, I asked about the main entrance.

24. Al ver el cartel, continué hasta el final de la calle.
_____, I continued to the end of the street.

25. Al doblar la esquina, compré una libreta pequeña.
_____, I bought a small notebook.

26. Al doblar la esquina, pregunté si tenían libros de segunda mano.
_____, I asked if they had any second-hand books.

27. Al doblar la esquina, elegí una novela para el viaje.
_____, I chose a novel for the trip.

28. Al doblar la esquina, dejé la bicicleta junto al escaparate.
_____, I left my bike by the window.

29. Mientras esperaba en recepción, comprobé la hora de la cita.
_____, I checked the appointment time.

30. Mientras esperaba en recepción, envié un mensaje a mi compañero.
_____, I sent a message to my colleague.

31. Mientras esperaba en recepción, esperé cerca de la entrada.
_____, I waited near the entrance.

32. Mientras esperaba en recepción, leí las instrucciones de seguridad.
_____, I read the safety instructions.

33. Al oír el timbre, abrí la puerta con cuidado.
_____, I opened the door carefully.

34. Al oír el timbre, dejé el paquete en el recibidor.
_____, I left the package in the hallway.

35. Al oír el timbre, miré por la mirilla.
_____, I looked through the peephole.

36. Al oír el timbre, llamé a mi vecino.
_____, I called my neighbor.

37. Al apagar la luz, cerré la ventana.
_____, I closed the window.

38. Al apagar la luz, recogí los libros del suelo.
_____, I picked up the books from the floor.

39. Al apagar la luz, me preparé para salir.
_____, I got ready to leave.

40. Al apagar la luz, volví a comprobar la hora.
_____, I checked the time again.

Answer key

Complete sentences. The participle phrase that completes the gap is in bold.

01. Entering the classroom, I found a free table.
02. Entering the classroom, I put my coat in the closet.
03. Entering the classroom, I greeted the receptionist.
04. Entering the classroom, I checked the class schedule.
05. Opening the email, I read the whole message.
06. Opening the email, I answered Ana’s question.
07. Opening the email, I added the appointment to my calendar.
08. Opening the email, I downloaded the attachment.
09. Checking the map, I avoided an area with roadworks.
10. Checking the map, I worked out how long the trip would take.
11. Checking the map, I marked the junction on the screen.
12. Checking the map, I called to confirm the address.
13. Approaching the bus stop, I took my ticket out of my backpack.
14. Approaching the bus stop, I stood behind the yellow line.
15. Approaching the bus stop, I asked if there were any seats left.
16. Approaching the bus stop, I checked the route number.
17. Preparing breakfast, I set the table for two.
18. Preparing breakfast, I cut up some fruit.
19. Preparing breakfast, I made coffee for everyone.
20. Preparing breakfast, I took the bread out of the oven.
21. Seeing the sign, I took a photo of the schedule.
22. Seeing the sign, I saved the number on my phone.
23. Seeing the sign, I asked about the main entrance.
24. Seeing the sign, I continued to the end of the street.
25. Turning the corner, I bought a small notebook.
26. Turning the corner, I asked if they had any second-hand books.
27. Turning the corner, I chose a novel for the trip.
28. Turning the corner, I left my bike by the window.
29. Waiting at reception, I checked the appointment time.
30. Waiting at reception, I sent a message to my colleague.
31. Waiting at reception, I waited near the entrance.
32. Waiting at reception, I read the safety instructions.
33. Hearing the bell, I opened the door carefully.
34. Hearing the bell, I left the package in the hallway.
35. Hearing the bell, I looked through the peephole.
36. Hearing the bell, I called my neighbor.
37. Turning off the light, I closed the window.
38. Turning off the light, I picked up the books from the floor.
39. Turning off the light, I got ready to leave.
40. Turning off the light, I checked the time again.