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Basics. Reduced Relative Clauses: Participles and Infinitives

Hard | B2 | Upper Intermediate | Clause | Complex sentence | Infinitive | Participle | Phrase | Relative clause | Verb | Passive voice

1. Complete the lead scientist's mission log about a strange extraterrestrial discovery.

The alien diet, primarily _____ of glowing blue rocks and cosmic dust, has fascinated our nutritionists for months.

Select one.

- **A)** consisted
- **B)** consisting
- **C)** consists
- **D)** is consisting

2. Help the food critic finish her scathing review of "The Rusty Spoon" by choosing the correct verb forms for her article.

The waiters _____ plates every five minutes didn't seem to care about the noise.
The soup, _____ at absolute zero, was ironically the highlight of the meal.
I believe I was the only patron _____ the evening without getting food poisoning!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** dropped
- **B)** dropping
- **C)** having dropped

Blank 2

- **A)** serving
- **B)** having served
- **C)** served

Blank 3

- **A)** survived
- **B)** surviving
- **C)** to survive

3. Help the museum curator complete the exhibition label for a bizarre artifact.

Any artifacts _____ to the notorious pirate Captain Blackbeard must be handled with extreme care, as they are most certainly cursed.

Select one.

- **A)** belonged
- **B)** belonging
- **C)** are belonging
- **D)** which belonging

4. The food critic is trying to describe the bizarre dishes at "The Rusty Spoon." Select ALL the sentences that contain a correctly formed **reduced relative clause**.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The soup served in a hollowed-out pumpkin tasted suspiciously like dish soap.
- **B)** The waiter carrying the flaming desserts tripped over the owner's cat.
- **C)** The chef was yelling at the kitchen staff threw a spatula across the room.
- **D)** The steak ordering by the gentleman at table four was still mooing.
- **E)** The dessert which was covered in edible gold cost more than my car.

5. Complete the frustrated traveler's diary entry.

The passengers _____ stranded at the airport for over twelve hours finally received a half-hearted apology and a single stale donut.

Select one.

- **A)** leaving
- **B)** left
- **C)** who left
- **D)** were left

6. Help the museum curator finalize the placards for the new "Cursed Antiquities" exhibit by choosing the correct word for each blank.

The only artifact _____ the 1920 museum fire is a cryptic diary _____ in invisible ink. Visitors _____ to read its contents must use a special ultraviolet flashlight.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** to survive
- **B)** surviving
- **C)** survived

Blank 2

- **A)** written
- **B)** writing
- **C)** to write

Blank 3

- **A)** hoping
- **B)** hoped
- **C)** to hope

7. Complete the starship captain's log. Select ALL the phrases that grammatically complete the sentence using a **reduced relative clause**.

The alien vessels _____ suddenly vanished from our radar.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** orbiting the gas giant
- **B)** damaged in the recent skirmish
- **C)** which were transmitting a peace signal
- **D)** were orbiting the gas giant
- **E)** having damaged in the recent skirmish

8. Complete the IT manager's frantic incident report about the recent server meltdown by choosing the correct verb form for each gap.

The first technician _____ the glitch was a junior intern _____ to the night shift. Anyone _____ login issues today should restart their computer immediately.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** to identify
- **B)** identifying
- **C)** identified

Blank 2

- **A)** assigned
- **B)** assigning
- **C)** to assign

Blank 3

- **A)** experiencing
- **B)** experienced
- **C)** to experience

9. Review the archeologist's field notes. Select ALL the sentences that correctly use a **reduced relative clause** to describe the findings.

(Hint: Look for clauses that have been shortened by removing the relative pronoun and the "to be" verb, leaving a participle or an infinitive).

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The artifacts found in the hidden chamber glowed with a strange green light.
- **B)** Anyone touching the golden idol will immediately turn into a parrot.
- **C)** The explorer who tripped the wire triggered the ancient trap.
- **D)** The map, which was drawn by pirates, led us straight into a swamp.
- **E)** The last person to leave the temple must seal the stone door.

10. Complete the starship captain's slightly panicked log entry about Planet Zog by selecting the correct options.

The mysterious alien artifacts _____ near the landing zone have started glowing neon green.
Any crew members _____ sudden urges to sing opera must report to the medical bay immediately.
The engine repairs currently _____ on the outer hull are absolutely critical for our escape.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** finding
- **B)** found
- **C)** have found

Blank 2

- **A)** experienced
- **B)** are experiencing
- **C)** experiencing

Blank 3

- **A)** doing
- **B)** done
- **C)** being done