## 7- The Absolute Phrase

An absolute phrase consists of a **noun** and a **participle** with other accompanying modifiers or objects.

* An **absolute** [phrase](https://englishsentences.com/phrase/) is a phrase that modifies an entire [independent clause](https://englishsentences.com/independent-clause/) (i.e a full sentence) and not just one word. It generally combines a noun and a [participle](https://englishsentences.com/participle/) (present or past), so it can be as short as two words, or sometimes have other modifiers and objects too.
* **The chairman being absent,** the secretary chaired the meeting.
* **The weather being fine**, the children played outside.
* **Some teachers having left their positions,** new recruits have joined the teachnig staff.
* **The lights having gone out, we couldn’t see a thing.**
* **The restaurant having closed, there was nowhere to eat.**
* **Her cookies freshly baked, Sara waited for her guests to arrive**
* Absolute phrases are not full sentences on their own, but they can add very important details to sentences that make them more informative or relevant.
* The restaurent having closed…
* All of the phrases above start with a noun followed by a present participle (or perfect particple), and convey a complete idea. They are called « absolute » because they convey an « absolute » (complete) idea or meaning. Notice that they can be turned into complete sentences by turning the partciple into its active form :
* The chairman was absent.
* The weather was fine.
* Some teachers have left their positions.
* The lights went out.
* So the overall structure of an absolute phrase comprise at least a noun and a partciple :
* The children playing
* The sun shinning
* Dinner being ready
* **Notice that :**

There may be some ressemblance between absolute phrases and **partciple phrases**. However, they are not the same. Notice the following sentences**:**

**Having waited an hour**, the crowd were getting impatient.

**Having been delayed for an hour**, the concert started at nine o'clock.

He hesitated, **not knowing what to do.**

**Not having been informed**, we were completely in the dark*.*

The phrases in the above sentences are not absolute ones ; they share the same subject as the main clause, and do not convey a complete idea on their own. Unlike absolute phrases, they cannot be turned into whole sentences :

* Have waited for an hour\* (the crowd have waited for an hour)
* Have been delayed for an hour\* (the concert has been delayed for an hour)
* Not know what to do\* (He did not know what to do)
* Have not been informd\* (We have not been informed)

### Let’s practice :

Find the absolute phrases in the sentences below and determine their different parts :

- Its wings being damaged by the wind, the aircraft crashed

- Walid being such a devout student, it was no surprise he passed his exams with flying colours

- Sarah walking too rapidly, she arrived there before me

- The cookies having been baked early in the morning, were ready by ten o'clock

- The boys working hard all day, they have finished the job by dinner time

- The teacher having finished correcting the exam papers, he told his students their marks.

- The visitors having left, we went to bed.

- It being a stormy day, we stayed inside the house.

- God willing we shall meet again.

- Heller Keller having been completely deaf and blind, her learning to speak is quite an amazing accomplishment.

- The program over, we all were ready to go home.

- My cousin finally returning to the homeland, we will be able to have fun in the family gatherings like before.