

## 8.2 Participles

- 1 When present participles (-ing) are used like adjectives or adverbs, they are active in meaning.  
*Modern art is interesting.*  
*Pour boiling water onto the pasta.*  
*She sat in the corner crying.*
- 2 When past participles (usually -ed) are used like adjectives or adverbs, they are passive in meaning.  
*I'm interested in modern art.*  
*Look at that broken doll.*  
*He sat in his chair, filled with horror at what he had just seen.*
- 3 Participles after a noun define and identify in the same way as relative clauses.  
*I met a woman riding a donkey. (= who was riding ...)*  
*The car stolen in the night was later found abandoned. (= that was stolen ...)*
- 4 Participles can be used as adverbs. They can describe:
  - two actions happening at the same time.  
*She sat by the fire reading a book.*
  - two actions that happen one after another.  
*Opening his case, he took out a gun.*  
If it is important to show that the first action is completed before the second action begins, we use the perfect participle.  
*Having finished lunch, we set off on our journey.*  
*Having had a shower, she got dressed.*
  - two actions that happen one because of another.  
*Being mean, he never bought anyone a Christmas present.*  
*Not knowing what to do, I waited patiently.*
- 5 Many verbs are followed by -ing forms.  
*I spent the holiday reading.*  
*Don't waste time thinking about the past.*  
*Let's go swimming.*  
*He keeps on asking me to go out with him.*

## UNIT 9

### Expressing habit

#### Present Simple

- 1 Adverbs of frequency come before the main verb, but after the verb to be.  
*We hardly ever go out.*  
*She frequently forgets what she's doing.*  
*We don't usually eat fish.*  
*I rarely see Peter these days.*  
*We are seldom at home in the evening.*  
*Is he normally so bad-tempered?*
- 2 *Sometimes, usually, and occasionally* can come at the beginning or the end of a sentence.  
*Sometimes we play cards.*  
*We go to the cinema occasionally.*  
The other adverbs of frequency don't usually move in this way.  
*\*Always I have tea in the morning.*

#### Present Continuous

- 1 The Present Continuous can be used to express a habit which happens often and perhaps unexpectedly. It happens more than is usual.  
*I like Peter. He's always smiling.*  
*She's always giving people presents.*
- 2 However, there is often an element of criticism with this structure. Compare these sentences said by a teacher.  
*Pedro always asks questions in class. (This is a fact.)*  
*Pedro is always asking questions in class. (This annoys the teacher.)*
- 3 There is usually an adverb of frequency with this use.  
*I'm always losing my keys.*  
*She's forever leaving the bath taps running.*

#### will and would

- 1 *Will* and *would* express typical behaviour. They describe both pleasant and unpleasant habits.  
*He'll sit at his computer for hours on end.*  
*She'd spend all day long gossiping with the neighbours.*  
*Would* cannot be used to express a state.  
*\*He'd live in a large house.*
- 2 *Will* and *would*, when decontracted and stressed, express an annoying habit or action.  
*He WILL come into the house with his muddy boots on.*  
*She WOULD make us wash in ice-cold water.*

#### used to + infinitive

- 1 This structure expresses a past action and/or a state. It has no present equivalent.  
*When I was a child, we used to go on holiday to the seaside. (action)*  
*He used to live in a large house. (state)*
- 2 Notice the negative and the question.  
*Where did you use to go?*  
*We didn't use to do anything interesting.*
- 3 We cannot use *used to* with a time reference + a number.  
*\*We used to have a holiday there for 10 years/three times.*  
But ...  
*We used to go there every year.*  
In a narrative, when expressing a series of past actions, it is common to begin with *used to*, then continue with *would*, for reasons of style.  
*When I was a child, we used to go on holiday to the seaside. We'd play on the beach, then we'd eat at a small café at lunchtime.*

#### be/get used to + noun + -ing form

- 1 This is totally different from *used to* + infinitive. It expresses an action that was difficult, strange, or unusual before, but is no longer so. Here, *used* is an adjective, and it means *familiar with*.  
*I found it difficult to get around London when I first came, but I'm used to it now.*  
*I'm used to getting around London by tube.*
- 2 Notice the use of *get* to express the process of change.  
*I'm getting used to the climate.*  
*Don't worry. You'll get used to eating with chopsticks.*