

# Participles

Verbs which end in **-ing** are sometimes referred to as the **present participle\***

Verbs which end in **-ed** are sometimes referred to as the **past participle\***.

(\*These are terrible names for them, since they are both often used for past, present and future situations.)

Participles are used as **verb forms, adjectives, or adverbs** and at the beginning of **reduced clauses**.

Note that when used as a noun, -ing verbs are called *gerunds*.

## How are they used?

<p><b>1. Verb forms</b> Used with auxiliary verbs <b>be</b>, and <b>have</b> for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progressive tenses</li> <li>Perfect tenses</li> <li>Passive voice</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He <u>was sleeping</u> when I arrived.</li> <li>I <u>have</u> already <u>eaten</u> lunch.</li> <li>The ring <u>was given</u> to me by my mother.</li> </ol>
<p><b>2. Adjectives</b> Used to describe <i>nouns</i>  (For more information about adjective use, see reverse of handout)</p>	<p>I love the sound of <u>falling rain</u>. She died of a <u>broken heart</u>. <i>Grammar</i> is so <u>boring!</u> The warehouse will look <u>abandoned</u>.</p>
<p><b>3. Adverbs</b> Used to describe verbs.</p>	<p>The girl <u>ran screaming</u> out of the room. The clothes <u>lay crumpled</u> on the floor.</p>
<p><b>4. Clauses</b> Used with phrases to create reduced clauses</p>	<p>Who is the woman <u>standing in the corner</u>? <u>Having taken the exam once</u>, she knew what to expect. <u>Rejected by society</u>, the man became a recluse.</p>

Read the sentences below. Find the participles and identify how they are used.

- The students were attending a number of boring seminars that day.
- Putting down my paper, I walked out of the lab with my head held high.
- I asked the confused student if she knew where she was going.
- The girl was devastated and sat crying in her chair for a long time.
- The children were terribly frightened by the raging thunder.

A.attending (1), boring(2), B. putting (4), held (2), C. confused (2), going (2), D. devastated (2), crying (3), E. frightened (1,2), raging (2)

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Participles : Adjective Use		
When <b>present participles</b> are used as adjectives or adverbs, they tend to be active and similar in meaning to an <b>active verb</b> :	<u>Rolling</u> waves A <u>south-facing</u> window She walked in <u>laughing</u>	= <i>waves that are rolling</i> = <i>a window that was facing south</i> = <i>she was laughing</i>
Most <b>past participles</b> will be similar in meaning to a <b>passive verb</b> :	A <u>broken</u> heart The hermit lived alone and <u>forgotten</u> .	= <i>a heart that has been broken</i> = <i>he was forgotten by people</i>
Some <b>past participles</b> can be active, but generally that action is already complete. These adjectives tend to describe something that has already <b>happened to</b> the noun it is describing.	A <u>fallen</u> leaf <u>Increased</u> activity A <u>retired</u> teacher <u>Faded</u> colours <u>Swollen</u> ankles	= <i>a leaf that has fallen</i> = <i>activity that has increased</i> = <i>a teacher that has retired</i> = <i>colours that have faded over time</i> = <i>ankles that have swollen</i>
	<b>Present Participle (cause)</b>	<b>Past participle (feeling)</b>
Some very common adjectives have a present participle form and a past participle form.  The <b>present participle</b> shows that the noun being described causes a feeling.  The <b>past participle</b> shows the feeling of the noun.	That was the most <u>boring</u> class ever!  It was an <u>exciting</u> day for us.  He received a <u>surprising</u> phone call.  <u>Your directions</u> were very <u>confusing</u> .	The students were <u>bored</u> in that class.  <u>We</u> felt <u>excited</u> on that day.  The phone call made <u>him</u> feel <u>surprised</u> .  <u>Someone</u> was <u>confused</u> when they read your directions.

Underline all the **participle adjectives** in these sentences. Find the mistakes and correct them.

- The lecture was very interested this afternoon.
- I don't like to watch bored movies.
- When I cleaned out my bag, I found a half-eating sandwich, a broken pair of scissors and an unwashed sweatshirt.
- I had a dream about a talking dog that lived in an abandoning house.
- Why were you so confusing when the teacher explained the assignment so clearly?