

Participles and Participial Phrases A

5e. A **participle** is a verb form that can be used as an adjective.

(1) Present participles end in *-ing*.

EXAMPLE The **threatening** weather caused us to delay our trip. [*Threatening* modifies *weather*.]

(2) Most past participles end in *-d* or *-ed*. Some are irregularly formed.

EXAMPLE The **worried** meteorologist issued a weather alert. [*Worried* modifies *meteorologist*.]

5f. A **participial phrase** consists of a participle and any modifiers or complements the participle has. The entire phrase is used as an adjective.

EXAMPLE We heeded the warning **given by the reporter**. [The participial phrase modifies the noun *warning*.]

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, draw one line under the participle used as an adjective and two lines under the word it modifies.

Example 1. A storm named Hurricane Albert had formed.

1. The roaring wind came first.
2. A concerned look was on my father's face.
3. The emergency instructions prepared by my mother came in handy.
4. In a few hours, our house had taped windows.
5. Candles brought by my mother were ready on the table.
6. My parents had also bought a large supply of bottled water.
7. The pouring rain beat against the windows.
8. The flickering lights prompted us to light the candles.
9. Huddled around the radio, we listened for weather updates.
10. Finally, the storm passed, leaving behind considerable damage.

EXERCISE B In each of the following sentences, draw one line under the participial phrase and two lines under the word or words it modifies.

Example 1. I saw a picture of a woolly mammoth lifting its hairy trunk.

11. Born during the Ice Age, woolly mammoths needed a great deal of hair.
12. The land, covered with ice, was a difficult place to survive.
13. Even a big beast protected by hair had trouble.
14. Searching for food, the woolly mammoths roamed the land.
15. Looking at pictures of these animals, I wonder how they survived at all.

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Participles and Participial Phrases B

5e. A **participle** is a verb form that can be used as an adjective.

(1) Present participles end in *-ing*.

EXAMPLE The mascot of the **opposing** team is a cougar. [*Opposing* modifies *team*.]

(2) Most past participles end in *-d* or *-ed*. Some are irregularly formed.

EXAMPLE At the cookout, they served **grilled** salmon. [*Grilled* modifies *salmon*.]

5f. A **participial phrase** consists of a participle and any modifiers or complements the participle has. The entire phrase is used as an adjective.

EXAMPLE The Akashi-Kaiko Bridge, **located in Kobe-Naruto, Japan**, is the world's largest suspension bridge. [The participial phrase modifies the noun *Akashi-Kaiko Bridge*.]

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, underline the participle. Then, circle the word or words that the participle modifies.

Example 1. Pepe admired the darkening (sky).

- The battered ship was anchored off the coast of Florida.
- The hikers took plenty of bottled beverages on their journey.
- Jose bought ten used magazines.
- The beaten team did not advance to the playoffs.
- The running child almost slipped and fell.

EXERCISE B In each of the following sentences, underline the participial phrase. Then, circle the word or words that the participial phrase modifies.

Example 1. Preparing for the winter storm, (Jimmy) took his plants inside.

- The tools used by professional mechanics are usually very expensive.
- Covered with snow for weeks, the ground was now hard.
- The basement, filled with old boxes, was damp and musty.
- Simple jewelry left behind by ancient Egyptians can be very valuable today.
- Wanting to make a good impression, Harry wore his favorite shirt to the game.
- The dogs, barking noisily throughout the night, kept the neighbors awake.
- Jeff wanted to buy an antique desk used by a famous writer.
- Feeling exhausted after a day of hard work, Ellen decided to go to sleep early.
- The boys playing in the park found an arrowhead and the fragments of a necklace.
- Torn and tattered, the clothes looked as if they had been worn for a long time.