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Participles and Participial Phrases**(Participles; Verb or Participle?) • Practice 1**

Participles A participle is a form of a verb that acts as an adjective and modifies a noun or pronoun.

| Present Participles | Past Participles |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| A <i>bubbling</i> pot sat on the stove. | A <i>typed</i> report looks neater. |
| <i>Purring</i> , the kitten settled into my lap. | <i>Pleased</i> , Kimberly sat down. |

Verb or Participle? A verb phrase always begins with a helping verb, but a participle acting as an adjective stands by itself.

| Verb Phrases | Participles |
|---|---|
| The crowd <i>was laughing</i> at the street corner clown. | <i>Laughing</i> , the children raced away. |
| The taxpayers <i>were dismayed</i> at the latest increases. | <i>Dismayed</i> , the librarian began to pick up the books. |

Exercise 1 Identifying Participles. Underline the participle in each sentence and circle the word it modifies. On each line at the right, write *present* or *past* to tell which kind it is.

EXAMPLE: An amused (smile) played across her face. past

- Marilyn wished on the falling star. PRES
- Keith is the leading hitter on our team. PRES
- The detective had a puzzled expression on his face. PAST
- Can you repair this broken vase? PAST
- My favorite dessert is baked apples. PAST
- Marc auditioned for the casting director. PRES
- The dry cleaner had a pressing appointment. PRES
- The sitter soothed the frightened child. PAST
- In Davy's dream, he rode on a flying carpet. PRES
- Laura returned the borrowed book this morning. PAST

Exercise 2 Distinguishing Between Verbs and Participles. On each line at the right, write whether each underlined word is a *verb* or a *participle*.

EXAMPLE: The annoyed customer spoke rudely to the clerk. participle

- The plane has been delayed by the weather. VERB
- The delayed game will be played next week. PART.
- A growing child needs nutritious food. PART.
- Queen Anne's lace was growing by the roadside. VERB
- You will find the information on the following pages. PART
- Someone has been following me for the last block. VERB
- Some spots are becoming worn. VERB
- That dress is a very becoming color. PART
- This restaurant has an interesting but limited menu. PART
- My parents have limited my nights out to weekends. VERB

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Participles and Participial Phrases

(Participles; Verb or Participle?) • Practice 2

Exercise 1

Identifying Participles. Underline the participle in each sentence. Then label each as *present* or *past*.

EXAMPLE: The frightened cat ran up a tree. past

- The howling coyotes woke the neighborhood. PRES.
- Raoul brought the injured hawk to a veterinarian. PAST
- The child gave his mother a crumbling cookie. PRES.
- Stumbling, Nicole dropped her books in the hall. PRES.
- A falling star streaked across the clear sky. PRES.
- The frozen ice cream was too hard to eat. PAST
- The disappointed team vowed to practice harder. PAST
- Hurt, Vivian ate lunch by herself. PAST
- Howard turned off the blaring radio. PRES.
- The torn tent was no protection against the wind. PAST
- The freezing rain made the roads quite treacherous. PRES.
- The exhausted climbers were rescued after three days. PAST
- The dwindling water supply worried the city's residents. PRES.
- Cornered, the thief finally gave up. PAST
- The carpenter fixed the child's broken toy. PAST

Exercise 2

Distinguishing Between Verbs and Participles. Identify each underlined word as a V (verb) or P (participle). If the word is used as a participle, also write the word it modifies.

EXAMPLE: The cat frightened the bird. V

- The train is arriving on track 7. V
- Reporters interviewed the arriving delegation. P
- My little brother loves frozen yogurt. P
- Usually, by this time of year, the pond has frozen. V
- The theatrical company has been touring major cities. V
- The touring company will perform here next week. P
- The Baskins are moving to Toronto. V
- The moving truck arrived an hour late. P
- Have the police recovered the stolen jewels? P
- Someone has stolen a valuable painting from the museum. V
- Michael has grown at least three inches taller this year. V
- Axelrod, a fully grown poodle, is groomed regularly. P
- Kurt has written his thank-you notes already. V
- Jo memorized six of Shakespeare's beautifully written sonnets. P
- The speech was made to honor our fallen soldiers. P