

6th - Non Finite Verbs - Participles



Participles: First read these sentences:

1. We saw a man **polishing** his shoes.
2. **Noticing** a strange animal, we moved away.

The highlighted words are **present** participles that have been used as verbs and as adjectives connected to the underlined noun and pronoun. Present participle forms of verbs always end in -ing. Such words represent actions that are going on, or are incomplete.

Now, look at these sentences:

1. **Duped** by our tour guide, we returned to the hotel.
2. We saw a few **women bent** by the weight of heavy sacks.

The highlighted words are examples of past participles that have been used as **verbs** and as **adjectives** modifying the underlined pronoun and noun, respectively. Past participle forms of verbs usually end in -ed/-t/-n. They describe actions that have been completed.

Now, read these sentences.

1. The **piercing** scream broke the silence.
2. The **barking** dogs ran around.

The participles in the above sentences have been used simply as qualifying adjectives. They are known as **participial adjectives**.

Participles may be used:

- as attributes. For example,
 1. The **broken glass** lay scattered on the ground.
 2. A **lost chance** never returns.
- in the predicate, modifying the subject or the object. For example,

1. We found **the child weeping**.
2. He kept **us waiting**.

- as a subjective complement. For example,

1. **The story** was interesting.
2. **The trek** was very tiring.

- as part of a phrase that functions as an adjective. For example,

1. The **boy standing at the gate** is my brother.

We can join pairs of sentences by using participles. For example,

- The boy saw a dog. It was coming towards him.

The boy saw a dog **coming** towards him.

- Sheila opened the box. She took out an old manuscript.

Opening the cupboard, Sheila took out an old manuscript.

In the above examples, both actions take place at the same time. When we join the sentences, one finite verb is removed. So, we use the continuous form of the participle. But sometimes, the second action begins only after the first has been completed. In that case, we convert the verb denoting the first action into a participle. For example,

- He had lost all his money. He went to his mother for help.

Having lost all his money, he went to his mother for help.

This is an example of perfect **participle** where the action has been completed at some point of time in the past.

Q1. Pick out the participle in each of these sentences and state whether it is a participial adjective, present participle, past participle or perfect participle.





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1. The long journey is tiring.
2. Learned men will never agree.
3. I met a girl weeping inconsolably.
4. Having visited Agra twice earlier, Priya did not want to go there any more.
5. Having missed his regular train, he had to take a special train in order to reach on time.

Q2. Join these pairs of sentences by using participles.

1. I knew the answer. I raised my hand.
2. He was disheartened. He gave up.
3. He seized the sword. He threatened the king.
4. He wife encouraged him. He persevered.
5. He was tired. He sat down to rest.
6. The magician took pity on the mouse. He turned it into a cat.
7. The passenger alighted from the train. He tripped over a bag.
8. The hungry fox saw a bunch of grapes. It was hanging from.
9. He cried at the top of his voice. He rushed at the thief.
10. We had worked for several hours. We came out of the office.
11. The troops gave a blow to the enemy. It was stunning.
12. His handwriting was illegible. I couldn't figure out what he had written.
13. We make some friendships in childhood. They last for ever.
14. Since I Have read all the notes, I am fully prepared for the exam.
15. Give me a missed call when you are free.
16. The girl entered the room. She was singing a song.
17. The boy stood up. He was showing himself to them.

