

7th - 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 selected articles are in this folder.
2. Beaten by the enemy, the soldiers retreated.
3. Drawing out his sword, the prince advanced.
4. Being fully satisfied, the children did not want to eat any more.
5. The child felt quite ashamed on getting scolded by his favourite teacher.

Q2. Join these pairs of sentences by using participles.

1. They were terrified. They stood in a huddle.
2. The money is collected easily. It has no value.
3. The travelled the whole day. They felt very tired.
4. They had their breakfast. They went to play cricket.
5. You practice these questions again and again. And you will master them.
6. He stood by the table. He was examining some papers.
7. She walked out. She was smiling.
8. He lived alone. He had been forgotten by everybody.
9. We met a boy. He was carrying a heavy bag.
10. The house was decorated with lights. It looked beautiful.
11. The robbers saw the policeman. They ran away.
12. I found the door open. I went inside.
13. The police saw the body. It was floating down the river.
14. He hurt his leg. He stopped walking.
15. He was unwilling to make another attempt. He decided to quit.
16. The Emperor was warned of the impending disaster. He made good his escape.
17. He lost a large amount of money. He gave up gambling.
18. I received no reply. I sent another letter.

