

## 8<sup>th</sup> - 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. Drawing out his sword, the prince advanced.
2. Having finished the painting, the artist relaxed.
3. The delightful song echoed across the valley.
4. The inspector transferred to this district is a close friend.
5. Having borrowed some books, he is now ready for the exams.

### Q2. Join these pairs of sentences by using participles.

1. The money is collected easily. It has no value.
2. They travelled the whole day. They felt very tired.
3. He was irritated by the discussion. He walked out.
4. The lion attacked the hunter. He was driven by rage.
5. It was a fine day. Everybody was out on the roads.
6. He took a picture of the bird. The bird was flying overhead.
7. The boy stood up. He was showing himself to them.
8. There is a woman over there. She is crying her eyes out.
9. I didn't know what to do. I phoned the police.
10. The hungry fox saw a bunch of grapes. It was hanging from a vine.
11. She was stricken with grief. She killed herself.
12. They were driven by the rain. They took shelter under a tree.
13. The sun had risen. We set out on our journey.
14. I walked along the road. I saw a snake.
15. He lost all his money in gambling. He became a pauper.
16. I took a cue from his words. I solved the riddle.
17. The burglars broke the door open. They entered the house.
18. He didn't realize the implication of his words. He went on speaking.

