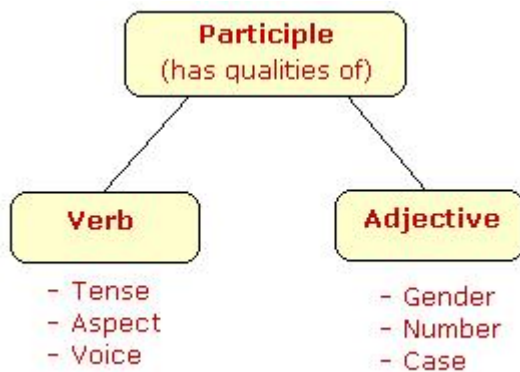


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A **Participle** is a *verbal* — a verb form that looks like a [verb](#) but does not act as the verb in a sentence. A participle usually acts as an [adjective](#) to modify a noun or pronoun.



via <http://masterrussian.com/aa070101a.shtml>

- **working** man (*adjective*)
- **broken** heart (*verb*)
- **asking** me (*adverb*)

What is a Participle?

A **Participle** is a form of a verb that can function as part of a [verb](#) or adverb phrase, or independently as an [adjective](#) or an [adverb](#). A participle ends in **-ed** or **-ing** (except for some [irregular verbs](#)). A participle is formed from a **verb** and modifies a *noun*, *noun phrase*, *pronoun*, *verb*, or *verb phrase*. Most often, a participle functions as an adjective.

Consider the following examples:

- *to run - running - I saw a **running** man.*

In this example of a participle, the verb 'to run' is used. 'Running' becomes the participle as it is used as an adjective to describe 'man.' What kind of man is he? A *running man*.

- *ride - riding - I saw a boy **riding a bicycle**.*

In this example the whole phrase '*riding a bicycle*' acts like an adjective. It describes the noun 'boy'. The word '*riding*' acts also like a verb, because it has '*bicycle*' as its object. The phrase '*riding a bicycle*' is an action-based description of the boy.

Types of Participles

There are two types of participles in English: past and present.

Present Participle

Present Participles are forms of verbs that express a *non-completed* or *continuing* action. They end in '**-ing**' and are used with auxiliary verbs 'be' and 'have' to make continuous tenses, such as [Present Continuous](#), [Present Perfect Continuous](#), etc.

- *It **is raining** all day long.* ('be' + raining)
- *The choir **was singing** beautiful chants.* ('be' + singing)
- *Cindy and Shaun **have been spending** their vacation at the sea.* ('have' + spending)

How to form Present Participle

To form the Present Participle we add '**-ing**' to the base form of the verb:

- *to play* → **playing**
- *to hide* → **hiding**
- *to swim* → **swimming**

Note: **Spelling rules for verbs when adding '-ing'**.

1. For verbs with silent '-e' at the end, change '-e' to '-ing':

- to *choose* → *choosing*
- to *glide* → *gliding*

2. For verbs with '-ie' at the end, change '-ie' to '-ying':

- to *tie* → *tying*
- to *lie* → *lying*

3. For verbs with 'consonant + vowel + consonant' at the end and final syllable stressed, double the last consonant (except for '-x' and '-w') and add '-ing':

- to *for'get* → *forgetting*
- to *'swim* → *swimming*

Present Participle vs Gerund

When *-ing* forms are used as verbs, adjectives or adverbs, they are called Present Participles. They can refer to present, past or future.

When *-ing* forms are used like [nouns](#), they are called [gerunds](#).

Compare:

- *He was **swimming** when I came.* (Here, 'swimming' means an action and acts like a verb)
- ***Swimming** is my favorite sport.* (Here, 'swimming' acts like a noun)

Past Participle

Past Participles are forms of verbs that express a *completed* action. They end in '**-ed**' except for [irregular verbs](#)) and are used with auxiliary verb 'have' to form perfect tenses such as [Present Perfect](#), [Past Perfect](#), etc., and [Passive voice](#).

- *I **have passed** the exam and I am very happy.* ('have' + passed)
- *Jane **had planned** to take the kids to the beach, but the weather changed.* ('have' + planned)
- *We **have finished** our work for today.* ('have' + finished)

How to form Past Participle

In most cases (**for regular verbs**), to form the Past Participle we add **'-ed'** to the base form of the verb:

- *to listen* → **listened**
- *to like* → **liked**
- *to drop* → **dropped**

Note: Spelling rules for verbs when adding '-ed'.

a) For regular verbs ending in **'-e'**, add **'-d'**:

- *To live* → *John lived in Brazil.*
- *To close* → *She closed the door.*

b) For regular verbs ending in one consonant + **'-y'**, change the **'-y'** to **"-ied"**:

- *To study* → *They studied German.*
- *To try* → *I tried to be kind.*

c) For regular verbs that end in one vowel + one consonant, double the consonant and add **'-ed'**:

- *To stop* → *They stopped the car.*
- *To plan* → *Nick planned a business trip.*

d) We do not double the consonants **'y'** or **'w'**:

- *To play* → *She played piano.*
- *To row* → *He rowed 3km yesterday.*

e) We do not double the consonant when the last syllable is not stressed:

- *To listen* → *I listened to the radio.*
- *To visit* → *Margaret visited her mother on Tuesday.*

Some common verbs in English have **irregular** Past Participle forms:

- *I don't **feel** (base form) quite well today. - I haven't **felt** (past participle form) very well for over a week now.*

- Helen has **gone** to Madrid. She will be back next Sunday.
- Mary has **done** her homework perfectly, her mam's glad.
- The police have **found** the suspect within three hours.

When to use Participles

Present Participle

Present participles are used as adjectives and to create Continuous ([Present](#), [Past](#), and [Future](#)) verb tenses.

- Adjectives
 - **barking** dog
 - **flowering** tree
- Verb Tenses
 - I *am* **thinking**. (present continuous)
 - I *was* **driving**. (past continuous)

Past Participle

Past participles are used as adjectives and to create Perfect verb tenses ([Present](#), [Past](#), and [Future](#)) and the [Passive voice](#).

- Adjectives
 - **spotted** dog
 - **broken** vase
- Verb Tenses & Voice
 - I *had* **left**. (past perfect)
 - I *have* **visited**. (present perfect)
 - *The lesson was* **finished**. (passive voice)

Here's a good video from EngVid explaining how to use participles in a sentence:

See also:

[Gerund: Overview](#)

[Verbs: The Infinitive](#)

[Irregular Verbs](#)