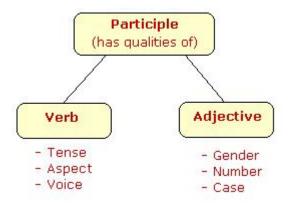


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A **Participle** is a *verbal* — a verb form that looks like a <u>verb</u> but does not act as the verb in a sentence. A participle usually acts as an <u>adjective</u> to modify a noun or pronoun.



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 <u>verb</u> or adverb phase, or independently as an <u>adjective</u> or an <u>adverb</u>. A participle ends in **-ed** or **-ing** (except for some <u>irregular verbs</u>). 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 <u>Present Continuous</u>, <u>Present Perfect Continuous</u>, 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  $\rightarrow$  choosing
- to glide  $\rightarrow$  gliding
- 2. For verbs with '-ie' at the end, change '-ie' to '-ying':
- to tie  $\rightarrow$  tying
- to lie  $\rightarrow$  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  $get \rightarrow forgetting$
- to 'swim  $\rightarrow$  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 <u>irregular verbs</u>) and are used with auxiliary verb 'have' to form perfect tenses such as <u>Present Perfect</u>, <u>Past Perfect</u>, etc., and <u>Passive voice</u>.

- 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  $\rightarrow$  **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  $\rightarrow$  John lived in Brazil.
- To close  $\rightarrow$  She closed the door.
- b) For regular verbs ending in one consonant + '-y', change the '-y' to "-ied":
- To study  $\rightarrow$  They studied German.
- To try  $\rightarrow$  I tried to be kind.
- c) For regular verbs that end in one vowel + one consonant, double the consonant and add '-ed':
- To stop  $\rightarrow$  They stopped the car.
- To plan  $\rightarrow$  Nick planned a business trip.
- d) We do not double the consonants 'y' or 'w':
- To play  $\rightarrow$  She played piano.
- To row  $\rightarrow$  He rowed 3km yesterday.
- e) We do not double the consonant when the last syllable is not stressed:
- To listen  $\rightarrow$  I listened to the radio.
- To visit  $\rightarrow$  Margaret visited her mother on Tuesday.

Some common verbs in English have <u>irregular</u> 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 (<u>Present</u>, <u>Past</u>, and <u>Future</u>) 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 (<u>Present</u>, <u>Past</u>, and <u>Future</u>) and the <u>Passive voice</u>.

- 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** 



<u>Irregular Verbs</u>