Participle

In [linguistics](#), a **participle** is a word that shares some characteristics of both [verbs](#) and [adjectives](#).[1] Examples of participle formation are:

Verb	Past Simple	Past Participle	Present Participle	Regular/ Irregular
to **hire**	hir*ed*		hir*ing*	regular
to **do**	did	done	do*ing*	
to **say**	said		say*ing*	
to **eat**	ate	eat*en*	eat*ing*	
to **write**	wrote	writt*en*	writ*ing*	irregular
to **beat**	beat	beat*en*	beat*ing*	
to **sing**	sang	sung	sing*ing*	
to **see**	saw	seen	see*ing*	

As noun-modifiers, participles usually precede the noun (like [adjectives](#)), but in many cases they can or must follow it:

- *The **visiting** dignitaries devoured the **baked** apples.*
- *Please bring all the documents **required**. (= Please bring all the documents **that are required**.)*
- *The difficulties **encountered** were nearly insurmountable. (= The difficulties **that were encountered** were nearly insurmountable.)*

Present participles

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

The present participle in English has the same form as the [gerund](#), but the gerund acts as a noun rather than a verb or a modifier. The word *sleeping* in *Your job description does not include **sleeping*** is a gerund and not a present participle.

While English past participles, like [past tense](#) forms, are sometimes [irregular](#), all English present participles are regular, being formed with the suffix *-ing*. The present participle in English is in the active voice and is used for:

- forming the [progressive aspect](#): *Jim was **sleeping**.*[2]
- modifying a noun as an adjective: *Let **sleeping** dogs lie. (= Let dogs **that are sleeping** lie.)*
- modifying a verb or sentence in clauses: *Broadly **speaking**, the project was successful.*

Past participles

The past participle may be used in both active and passive voices:

- forming the perfect: *The chicken has **eaten**.*
- forming the passive voice: *The chicken was **eaten**.*
- modifying a noun, with active sense: *our **fallen** comrades* (= *our comrades **who have fallen***)
- modifying a noun, with passive sense: *the **attached** files* (= *the files **that have been attached***)
- modifying a verb or sentence, with passive sense: ***Seen** from this perspective, the problem presents no easy solution.* (= ***When it is seen** from this perspective,….*)

Passive participles

Passive participles reflect past action in the passive voice, for example

- *The dog, having been **praised** by its master, was happy*, or more commonly, *The dog, **praised** by its master, was happy.*

Even irregular past participle verbs often follow the format *-en* or *-ne*, as may be seen from above. For examples:

Verb	Past Participle
to **beat**	beat*en*
to **do**	do*ne*
to **eat**	eat*en*
to **fall**	fall*en*
to **give**	giv*en*
to **help**	holp*en* [3]
to **show**	shown
to **see**	se*en*
to **write**	writt*en*

References

1. ↑ What is a participle? Archived 2013-02-12 at the Wayback Machine in Glossary of linguistic terms Archived 2013-02-10 at the Wayback Machine at SIL International.
2. ↑ progressive aspect = *continuing*

3. ↑ Archaic form in early Modern English, used in the *Book of Common Prayer* version of the Magnificat, see *e.g.,* King James Bible online. Accessed September 27, 2010.

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