



Adjectival Usage of the Participle

Grammar > Intermediate 6



Exercise 1 – Learning

Adjectival Participles are verbs that act like adjectives. There are two types:

Present Participle and Past Participle

Present Participle

The present participle is used in the active voice. It is formed by adding '**-ing**' to the base form of the verb:

verb + '-ing'

- Sitcoms are not **amusing** (to Tom).

The subject of a present participle sentence is the person/thing/situation that causes some feeling: "*Sitcoms* are not amusing".

Past Participle

The past participle is used in the passive voice. It is formed by adding '**-ed**' to the base form of the verb:

verb + '-ed'

- Tom is not **amused** by sitcoms.

The subject of a past participle sentence is the person/thing that feels something: "*Tom* is not amused".



More examples:

Present Participle

- The movie was more **boring** than John had expected.
- What a **terrifying** dog!
- The amount of work he's had in the past few months is **overwhelming**.
- This was a **frightening** experience.
- She felt an **overwhelming** desire to laugh.

Past Participle

- John was utterly **bored** by the movie.
- I was **terrified** by the dog.
- He has been **overwhelmed** with work in the past few months.
- They were utterly **frightened** by the experience.
- She was **overwhelmed** by a desire to laugh.



Exercise 2 – Rephrasing

Rephrase the following sentences from present participle (-ing) to past participle (-ed) adjective.

Example: She finds spiders frightening. → Spiders make her frightened.

Content:

1. I find sports tiring.
2. The students find the class boring.
3. The mistake was embarrassing for the company.
4. Learning English is so frustrating for me.
5. The story was very depressing.
6. The children found the story fascinating.
7. English vocabulary is so confusing.
8. My daily life is so exhausting.



Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

Use what you learned in class to create sentences with your tutor.

Example: fascinating. → That sounds fascinating./I'm fascinated.

Content:

1. exciting.
2. depressing.
3. amusing.
4. confusing.
5. annoying.
6. embarrassing.