

Verbals—Participial Phrases

Reteaching

A **verbal** is a word that is a verb form but acts as a different part of speech.

A **participle** is a verbal that acts as an adjective and modifies a noun or pronoun.

A waving flag caught my eye. (The present participle *waving* modifies *flag*.)

Surprised, I blinked in disbelief. (The past participle *Surprised* modifies *I*.)

A **participial phrase** consists of a participle plus its modifiers and complements.

Waving my hand to the bus driver, I ran toward the stop. (The participial phrase *Waving my hand to the bus driver* modifies *I*.)

Surprised by my sudden arrival, the driver braked sharply. (The participial phrase *Surprised by my sudden arrival* modifies *driver*.)

A. Identifying Participles and Participial Phrases

In each sentence, find a participle or participial phrase that modifies the underlined noun or pronoun. Underline the participle or participial phrase.

1. Increased demand for food is the result of the growth in the world's population.
2. The popular comedian bowed to the laughing audience.
3. The doctor examining me ordered a blood test.
4. Soothed by the music, Kevin fell asleep in his chair.
5. In the film about endangered species, I saw a bald eagle.
6. Tired after the long practice, the athlete stumbled.
7. Packing hurriedly, Tara forgot her shoes.
8. We frantically bailed water from the flooded basement.
9. Andrea, leaping several feet into the air, caught the softball.
10. A baked potato comes with every meal.

B. Identifying Participles and Participial Phrases

Underline the participle or participial phrase in each sentence. Underline twice the word that the participle or participial phrase modifies.

1. Taken for granted by most of us, paper is an essential part of our lives.
2. The paper used today has developed over many centuries.
3. Ancient Egyptians wrote on a sheet formed from stalks of a reed.
4. The reed, called papyrus, grew along the Nile River.
5. Cut down, the reed stalks were sliced into thin strips.
6. Can you imagine the laborers working in the hot sun?
7. The papyrus strips, laid in crisscross layers, were pressed together into fairly smooth sheets.
8. Modern paper, however, started with a Chinese inventor serving Emperor He Di.
9. The inventor's name was Cai Lun, also spelled Ts'ai Lun.
10. Arabs fighting near China's borders captured Chinese papermakers and brought their art to the West.

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More Practice

A. Identifying Participles and Participial Phrases

Underline the participle or participial phrase in each sentence. On the blank at the right, write the word that the participle or participial phrase modifies.

- The tailor repaired my ripped jacket in just a few minutes. _____
- A motorist driving recklessly through the town was arrested. _____
- The book told about actual buried treasure in the United States. _____
- Using combinations of leaves and stems, the Japanese make artful arrangements. _____
- That extravagantly bound book is a first edition of *Treasure Island*. _____
- The Founding members of our nation showed great foresight. _____
- James finally found his gym socks, stuffed into a corner of his dresser drawer. _____
- The Cullinan, having a weight of 3,024 carats in its rough state, is the world's largest diamond. _____
- Fred, observing state law, switched on the car headlights as the rain began. _____
- The scraping sound from outdoors was being made by a snowplow. _____

B. Identifying Dangling and Misplaced Participial Phrases

Underline the participial phrase in each sentence. Underline twice the word that the participial phrase modifies, if it exists. If the participial phrase is used correctly in the sentence, write **Correct** on the line at the right. If the phrase is placed incorrectly, write **Misplaced**. If there is no word modified by the phrase, write **Dangling**.

- A few years ago, forecasters predicting the future talked about a "paperless office." _____
- Office workers using computers supposedly would not handle papers. _____
- Recalling these predictions, more paper than ever is needed now. _____
- We can revise documents in a few minutes written on the computer. _____
- Then, striking a single key, our printers churn out dozens of pages. _____
- Wasted by our reliance on computers, we throw away mounds of paper. _____
- Avoiding further waste of resources, waste paper is recycled in many offices. _____
- In the garage of an office building, you might find a huge container filled four feet deep with paper. _____

CHAPTER 3

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