

## Participial Phrases

A **participle** is a verb form that can function as an adjective.

*Present participles* always end in *-ing*. Although *past participles* often end in *-ed*, they can take other forms as well. Many adjectives commonly used in sentences are actually participles.

  
The **freezing** rain slowly turned to hail.

   
The **heated** argument occurred among the **losing** players.


*A participle can be used as an adjective or as part of a verb phrase.*

PARTICIPLE AS ADJECTIVE  
PARTICIPLE IN VERB PHRASE

The **married** couple have jobs.  
The judge **has married** the couple.


A **participial phrase** contains a participle plus any complements and modifiers.

*Participial phrases can be used in various positions in a sentence. They always act as adjectives.*

  
Pete Sampras **playing tennis** draws large crowds.

  
Sampras, **disappointed with his first serve,** vowed to improve his game.

  
**Sitting quietly during one of Sampras's games,** his fans watch him intently.

  
**Graciously accepting a trophy from the sponsors,** he smiled at the crowd.

In general, a **participial phrase** at the *beginning* of a sentence is followed by a comma.

- **Participles** evoke action. Add participles to writing by adding *-ing verbs to the beginning or end of sentences.*

**A:** The diamond-scaled snakes attacked their prey.

**B:** **Hissing, slithering, and coiling,** the diamond-scaled snakes attacked their prey.

- Writers may also add **participial phrases.**

**C:** **Hissing their forked red tongues and coiling their cold bodies,** the diamond-scaled snakes attacked their prey.

- Using single participles creates rapid movement, while expanded phrases add details at a slower, but equally intense pace.

**A.** I like to savor life, drinking in all of my surroundings...if I were to be running I would miss out on so many little things that I enjoy, they would simply be reduced to an unfair blur.

Find the *participial phrases* in the revised sentence:

**B.** Drinking in all of my surroundings, tasting every moment, I like to savor life...running would simply reduce the many little things I enjoy in life to an unfair blur.

*Directions:* The following sentences simply *tell* the reader what is going on, without *showing* or including the reader in any of the action. Read the original sentences and revise each one by creatively and effectively adding **participles** and/or **participial phrases** to evoke action.

1) The trapeze artist safely reached the other platform.

*Swinging, twirling, and flying*, the trapeze artist safely reached the other platform.

2) The gymnast won the gold medal.

*Pointing her toes, flexing her muscles, and tumbling across the mat perfectly*, the gymnast won the gold medal.

3) A beam of light swung out into the darkness.

*Sweeping slowly across the floor*, a beam of light swung out into the darkness, *searching*.

4) The dog begged for table scraps.

*Wagging his tail and licking his lips*, the dog begged pitifully for table scraps.

5) A lovely couple danced out into the moonlight.

*Swaying to the music*, a lovely couple danced out into the moonlight, *humming the melody in each other's ears*.

Grammar Practice: Participles Lesson 46

**Directions:** Underline each participle.

- 1) We saw a running deer in the forest.
- 2) The chart showing sales figures is very helpful.
- 3) The scampering cat ran to the nearest tree.
- 4) A team of deep-sea divers discovered the shining treasure.
- 5) We saw the thunderstorm advancing across the plains.
- 6) Biting insects hovered over our campsite at night.
- 7) His foot, struck by the falling timbers, was injured.
- 8) The whispering pines filled the air with their fresh scent.
- 9) People preparing for a career in aviation should master mathematics.
- 10) We drove slowly, enjoying every minute of the drive.

- 11) Onions are among the largest vegetable crops produced in the U.S.
- 12) The truck, burdened with its load, traveled slowly over the road.
- 13) Jan, thinking about her new job, was very happy.
- 14) Several passengers injured in the wreck were brought to the hospital.
- 15) That expanding city will soon be the largest one in the state.
- 16) The fire, fanned by the high winds, threatened the entire area.
- 17) The rude person, shoving others aside, went to see the manager.
- 18) The lake, frozen solidly, looked like a huge mirror.
- 19) The man playing the trombone is my brother.
- 20) The cleaned apartment was ready for new tenants.

- 21) Teasing children ran at Rip Van Winkle's heels.
- 22) Balloons lifting weather instruments are released daily by stations.
- 23) The chirping bird flew from tree to tree.
- 24) The surviving pilot described the accident.
- 25) The dedicated artist worked patiently.
- 26) Homing pigeons were used in the experiment.
- 27) The whistling youngster skipped happily down the road.
- 28) Ironed shirts were stacked neatly at the cleaners.
- 29) Those standing near the fence should form a second line.
- 30) The child ran to his loving father, who comforted him.



**Formative Assessment: Exercise 8, Writer's Choice, Page 528**

On your paper, write the **participle** or the **participial phrase** that acts as an adjective in each sentence. Then identify the word or words each one modifies.

***Fashions from Other Lands***

1. Americans looking for more variety often adopt the fashions of other countries.
2. The demand for goods imported from other lands is often great.
3. Chinese textile mills export silk decorated by hand.
4. A wool scarf woven in Ecuador is warm and colorful.
5. Brides prize lace veils made by French nuns.
6. Fine cotton fabrics used for men's shirts come from Egypt.
7. Batik cloth made in Malaysia makes beautiful warm-weather dresses and shirts.
8. Freshwater pearls imported from Japan are used for necklaces and earrings.
9. Rings from gold mined in Australia are prized by American women and men.
10. India exports gold hoops for pierced ears.
11. Embroidered blouses from Mexico contain intricate floral designs.
12. Leather processed in Italy is used in elegant shoes and purses.
13. Aquamarines and topaz mined in Brazil make beautiful jewelry.
14. Sweaters crafted by Irish workers are heavy and durable.
15. Shoppers can find interesting fashions from just about anywhere in the world.