

Participles

The participles are:

- a) present participles (staying, leaving, etc.),
- b) past participles (stayed, left, etc.) and
- c) perfect participles (having left, etc.).

- ◆ Present and past participles can be used as adjectives. The **present participle (-ing)** describes what somebody or something is (it answers the question 'What kind?'). The **past participle (-ed)** describes how somebody feels (it answers the question 'How do you feel?').

e.g. It was an **embarrassing** situation.
(What kind of situation? Embarrassing.)
He was **embarrassed**. (How did he feel?
Embarrassed.)

Participles can also be used:

- ◆ instead of a relative pronoun and full verb.

e.g. The woman **waving** at me is my aunt.
(= The woman **who is waving** at me is my aunt.)
The new shampoo **advertised** on TV is very expensive.
(= The new shampoo **which is advertised** on TV is very expensive.)

- ◆ to express reason.

e.g. **Feeling shy**, Laura didn't talk to Ben.
(= **Because she was shy**, ...)
Having seen the film before, I decided to stay at home.
(= **Because I had seen the film** before, I decided to stay at home.)

- ◆ to express time.

e.g. **After taking/having taken his Master's degree**, he applied for a job.
Having taken his Master's degree, he applied for a job.
(= **After he had taken his Master's degree**, he applied for a job.)
We met John **while shopping**.
(= We met John **while we were shopping**.)

- ◆ instead of the past simple in narratives when we describe actions happening immediately one after the other.

e.g. **Hearing the news**, she **fainted**.
(= She **heard the news** and she **fainted**.)

- ◆ to avoid repeating the past continuous in the same sentence.

e.g. He was walking down the street **whistling** a tune.
(= He was walking down the street **and he was whistling** a tune.)

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Underline the correct word.

- 1 A: Did you enjoy the horror film?
B: No. It was very frightened/frightening.
- 2 A: Mark is always biting his nails.
B: I know. It's an extremely annoyed/annoying habit.
- 3 A: Why doesn't John study French?
B: He is not interested/interesting in learning a foreign language.
- 4 A: What did you think of that new restaurant?
B: It was awful! The food was disgusted/disgusting.
- 5 A: Miss Shaw is a wonderful teacher.
B: Yes. She is always encouraged/encouraging in her attitude towards the students.
- 6 A: Do you like windsurfing?
B: Yes. I find it very excited/exciting.
- 7 A: Vicky is good at art, isn't she?
B: Yes. I was impressed/impressing by her paintings.
- 8 A: Did you see the fireworks last night?
B: Yes. It was an amazed/amazing display.

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Rewrite the sentences using participles.

- 1 Because she was tired, Katie went to bed.
...Being tired, Katie went to bed...
- 2 He was sitting in the garden and he was drinking his tea.
.....
- 3 After Janet had made dinner, she called the children.
.....
- 4 The boy who is standing by the door is my brother.
.....
- 5 Simon cut his hand while he was chopping some wood.
.....
- 6 Donna had a shower before she went to bed.
.....
- 7 Because we were late, we took a taxi.
.....
- 8 Gary opened the window and breathed the fresh air.
.....
- 9 She was lying on her bed and she was reading a book.
.....
- 10 The jewels which were taken by the thieves were very valuable.
.....
- 11 Amy picked up her pen and started to write the letter.
.....
- 12 The man who is walking towards us is a relative of mine.
.....
- 13 After the teacher had explained the exercise, he asked the students to do it.
.....
- 14 Because she had forgotten to take her purse, she had to borrow some money from a colleague.
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