

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.
