FCE 11.2

Continuing with our look at how to describe things, let's review the use of **past and present participles to create adjectives**.

In the previous lesson, you heard an interview with the daughter of a Hollywood film star, Hannah. When Hannah was talking about her mother and her attitude to acting, she said her mother "became quite embarrassed". Hannah meant that her mother became a bit red or maybe blushed and wasn't sure what to say. What would it mean if Hannah had said "my mother became quite embarrassing"? It means her mother started acting in a way that made Hannah (and possibly other people around them) feel ashamed, awkward, or uncomfortable.

As you can see from the example, the use of the past (-ed) or the present (-ing) participle changes significantly the meaning of an adjective. Here are the rules:

- To talk about how a person feels about something, we use the past participle: *She was bored.*
- To talk about the person or thing that is causing the feeling, we use the present participle: *The movie was boring.*

OJO: Be careful with these *-ed* and *-ing* adjectives. The *Cambridge Learner Corpus* shows that exam candidates often make mistakes with these.

Choose the correct form of the adjective in the following sentences.

1. Despite the director's claims that the film was a masterpiece, the audience found the plot utterly **confused / confusing**.
2. Having spent six hours negotiating without a single break, the delegates looked visibly **exhausted / exhausting**.
3. It was rather **embarrassed / embarrassing** to see a seasoned politician lose his temper during a live television broadcast.
4. Although the new tax regulations appear **intimidated / intimidating** at first glance, they actually simplify the filing process for small businesses.
5. Residents living near the airport have grown increasingly **exasperated / exasperating** by the rising number of late-night flights.
6. The sheer scale of the ancient ruins was so **overwhelmed / overwhelming** that the researchers stood in silence for several minutes.
7. Many applicants felt **discouraged / discouraging** after receiving a generic rejection email that offered no constructive feedback.
8. What makes this particular thriller so **captivated / captivating** is the unpredictable nature of the main character.
9. Sarah was thoroughly **mortified / mortifying** when she realized she had been reading the wrong schedule all morning.
10. Given the current economic climate, it is hardly **astonished / astonishing** that consumers are cutting back on luxury goods.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Now, let's move on to a discussion of describing with linking verbs. You know that normally adverbs are used with verbs: *Hannah acts beautifully.* This tells you how she acted. However, with certain verbs it is sometimes necessary to use adjectives: *Hannah is beautiful. Hannah looks beautiful.* These verbs are usually connected with our senses - *look, sound, taste, feel* and *smell.* Other verbs include *be, appear* and *seem,* and *become.* We use adjectives instead of adverbs with these verbs because they are **linking verbs**, which describe a state of being rather than an action.

Finish the following sentences. There is one example.

0) You're eating a lemon. It tastes ___*sour*___.

a) You're listening to a love song. It sounds _____.

b) You're walking by the sea. It smells _____.

c) You're walking home late at night. It feels _____.

d) You're eating spaghetti. It tastes _____.

e) You're looking through a travel brochure. It looks _____.

f) You're wearing a designer suit. It feels _____.

You must be careful because some of these verbs can have two meanings. Look at the underlined verbs in the sentences below.

A) The actor looked angry when she read the bad review.
B) The actor looked at her co-star angrily at one point in the film.

A) I *feel* fine.
B) I felt the water carefully to see if it was hot enough.

In the (A) examples, *looked* and *feel* are states, meaning "seemed" and "am". In the (B) examples, *looked* and *felt* are both actions. If the verb means "be" or "seem", then an adjective is used after it. If the verb is used for an action, it can be followed by an object and/or an adverb.

Complete these sentences using an adverb or an adjective of your choosing.

a) The food tasted ..... .

b) I felt the soft fur on the rabbit very ..... .

c) I didn't feel very ..... when the bus was late again.

d) Ann looked ..... to see if there was any traffic, before crossing the road.

e) Noises can sound quite ..... at night.

f) Your coat looks ..... .

g) He looked at her ..... when she entered the room.

h) The rabbit appeared ..... out of the hat.

The last item in today's lesson is to learn some phrasal verbs with "take". In the interview, Hannah talks about her grandparents not wanting her mother to "take up acting" (which means to start doing a new hobby, sport, activity, or habit on a regular basis). Here are 8 more phrasal verbs with "take".

OJO: All of these phrasal verbs are used frequently. I highly recommend practicing them.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Complete these sentences using one of the words or phrases in the box.

account of	after	charge	for granted
off	out	seriously	turns

a) I took ..... $300 from the bank yesterday.

b) No one ever seems to take me ..... - they always think I'm joking.

c) My husband and I always take ..... loading the dishwasher.

d) I hate the way my sister always takes me ..... . and thinks I'm always available.

e) I take ..... my uncle Fred when it comes to height and weight.

f) My grandmother always takes ..... of what happens in her kitchen.

g) Our business really took ..... after we had a new website designed.

h) Lisa took ..... her sister's untidiness when she decided not to move into a flat with her.

LIVEWORKSHEETS