

Participle and Participle Phrases

A participle is one of three types of verbals (or verbal phrases) in which a word that is typically a verb is used as a different part of speech. A **participle** is a verb form that can be used as an adjective.

There are two main types of participles: present participles and past participles. **Present participles** end in -ing (like a gerund, but now they are acting as adjectives, not nouns). **Past participles** typically end in -d or -ed.

The **smiling** child waved. [The present participle **smiling** describes the child, acting like an adjective.]

The horses **trotting past** were not frightened by the crowd. [The present participle phrase **trotting past** describes the horses.]

The police officers searched the **abandoned** warehouse. [The past participle **abandoned** describes the warehouse.]

Chosen for her leadership skills, Dawn was an effective team captain. [The phrase **chosen for her leadership skills** describes Dawn. **Chosen** is the past participle that begins the entire phrase.]

Obviously, as seen from some of the above examples, a **participle phrase** is a participle and any of its modifiers or complements. The entire phrase is used as an adjective.

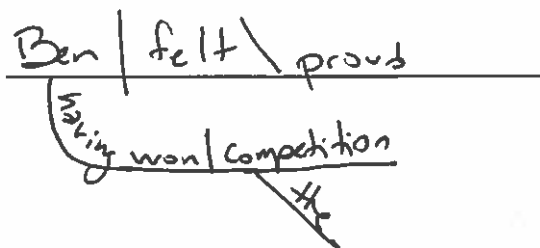
We heard the duck **quacking noisily at the dog**. [The phrase **quacking noisily at the dog** describes the duck.]

Trimming the hedges this morning, I saw a snake **slithering through the grass**. [The phrase **trimming the hedges this morning** describes the subject, I, whereas the phrase **slithering through the grass** describes the object, snake.]

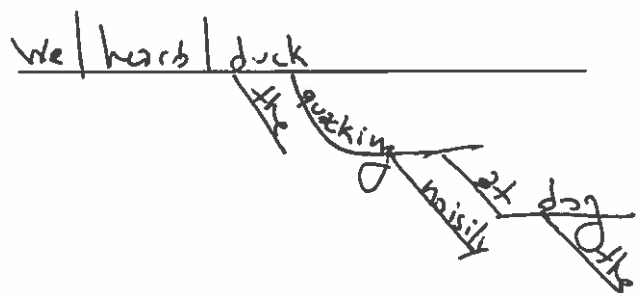
Diagramming participles and participle phrases

Participles are diagrammed on a bending/curved line below the noun they describe. Any complements (objects) of the participle would be diagrammed as normal next to the participle, and any modifiers would be placed accordingly.

Having won the competition, Ben felt proud.



We heard the duck quacking noisily at the dog.



Participles and Participle Phrases

Directions: Choose **eight** of the following sentences to diagram on a separate sheet of paper. Every word in the sentence should appear in your diagram. Below the sentences you'll see a ranking of which sentences are easy, medium, and hard, in order to help you choose which ones to do.

1. Proving his point, the professor gestured wildly.
2. Looking very uneasy, Leon checked his parachute.
3. Being concerned about his grades, Chadwick requested an appointment.
4. The owners, represented by their lawyers, filed a new motion.
5. Recognizing the value of a formal education, Leon entered college.
6. The strikers, being restrained by court order, had stayed outside.
7. We finally found the answer in a book written by Ralph Blake.
8. The new airline, started by the Blues Brothers, is based in Chicago.
9. Justice Potter, dissenting, roundly attacked the company's argument.
10. The tenor, joined by the baritone, sang a rousing duet about free trade.
11. Giving me a dirty look, she concluded her prepared statement.
12. Endowed with great natural beauty, North Dakota has become a major tourist destination in recent years.
13. Being tall, I reached the top shelf without difficulty.
14. We remembered the strange sound occurring in the night.
15. Closing his book, the teacher signaled the end of class for the day.
16. Dogged by constant failure, Leon revised his game plan drastically.
17. How could he have paid the fine, being completely broke?
18. Being ready for the exam, she had little difficulty with it.

Easy: 1, 2, 9

Fairly Easy: 3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 14, 16

Fairly Hard: 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 18

Hard: 7, 11