

Participles

Another Verbal to Know and Love

Reading and Discussion

When is a verb not a verb? When it tries to imitate another part of speech.

Sometimes verbs do not act like verbs. Instead they act like nouns, adjectives or adverbs. When they do this we call them **verbals**. There are three main kinds of verbals:

1. **participles**
2. **infinitives**
3. **gerunds**

Participles can be used as adjectives. Every verb has a **present** participle and a **past** participle.

- The **present participle** always ends in **ing**.
- The **past participle** usually ends in **d, t, n, ed** or **en**.

Although the participle acts like an adjective, it is still part of a verb. It can take a direct object, and it can be modified or described by an adverb. Participles can have two jobs:

1. They can show tense when combined with a helping verb. For example:

- John **was riding** his bike.

Riding is a participle. **Was** is the helping verb. It shows the **tense**; it shows **when** John rode his bike.

2. They can be used as adjectives. Remember adjectives are words that are used to describe nouns. When participles are used as an adjective, they usually end in **d, ed, en, ing** or **t**. For example:

- **Burned** toast stinks!

Burned is the participle. It describes toast.

- **Running** water looks pretty in a fountain.

Running is the participle. It describes the water. Even though **running** is an action word it is not used as a verb in this sentence. It is used to describe the water instead. It acts like an adjective.

Name _____

Date _____

Activities

Activity A: Let's Review Participles. Fill in the blanks.

1. What are the three main kinds of verbals? _____,

_____ , _____

2. _____ can be used as adjectives.

3. Every verb has two kinds of participles. They are _____

and _____.

4. A present participle always ends in _____.

5. What are the two jobs a participle can have? _____

_____.

Activity B: Find and underline the participles in the following sentences. Look for participles used as adjectives.

1. Ruined spaghetti covered the stove.
2. A broken kite fell out of the tree.
3. Whipped cream tastes yummy on ice cream.
4. The prancing horse trotted past our seats.
5. My dancing class put on a show for the teachers.
6. John makes burnt toast every morning.
7. The breaking story at twelve is about our football championship.
8. A banging door scared Puffy into barking.

Activity C: Write a sentence using the word **running** as a participle.

Name _____

Date _____

Answer Key

Activity A

1. What are the three main kinds of verbals? Infinitives, gerunds and participles.
2. Participles can be used as adjectives.
3. Every verb has two kinds of participles. They are past participle and present participle.
4. A present participle always ends in ing.
5. What are the two jobs a participle can have? They can show tense and they can be used as adjectives.

Activity B

1. Ruined spaghetti covered the stove.
2. A broken kite fell out of the tree.
3. Whipped cream tastes yummy on ice cream.
4. The prancing horse trotted past our seats.
5. My dancing class put on a show for the teachers.
6. John makes burnt toast every morning.
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Activity C

Answers will vary.