

Recognizing Verbal Phrases

To understand the next two kinds of phrases, you must learn about *verbals*. A *verbal* is any verb that is used in a sentence not as a verb, but as another part of speech. The verbals discussed in the next two sections are *participles* and *infinitives*. Participles are used as adjectives. Infinitives are used as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs.

Although they are used as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs, verbals keep certain characteristics of verbs. They can be modified by an adverb or adverb phrase. They can also be followed by a complement, such as a direct object. A verbal used with a modifier or a complement is called a *verbal phrase*.

Participles

Participles are verb forms with two basic uses. When they are used with helping verbs, they are verbs. When they are used alone to modify nouns or pronouns, they become adjectives.

KEY CONCEPT A **participle** is a form of a verb that is often used as an adjective. ■

There are two kinds of participles: *present participles* and *past participles*. Each kind can be recognized by its ending. All present participles end in *-ing*.

EXAMPLES: talking doing eating wanting

Most past participles, however, end either in *-ed* or in *-d*.

EXAMPLES: opened jumped played moved

Other past participles end in *-n*, *-t*, *-en*, or another irregular ending.

EXAMPLES: grown felt bought eaten held

In the following chart, both present and past participles are used in sentences as adjectives.

Present Participles	Past Participles
A <i>walking</i> tour was arranged.	The <i>cooked</i> food won't spoil.
<i>Playing</i> , she grabbed his hand.	He was by then, of course, a <i>grown</i> man.

Participles, like other adjectives, tell *what kind* or *which one*.

Participial Phrases

A participle can be expanded into a *participial phrase* by adding a complement or modifier.

KEY CONCEPT A **participial phrase** is a present or past participle and its modifiers. The participle can be modified by an adverb or adverb phrase or a complement. The entire phrase acts as an adjective in a sentence. ■

Participles can be expanded in many different ways.

PARTICIPIAL PHRASES

The instructor, *speaking slowly*, explained the use of skis.

The skier, *choosing her slope*, looked at its features carefully.

The esteemed poet, *honored by the award*, expressed his thanks.

The first participial phrase is formed by adding the adverb *slowly* to the participle *speaking*. The second is formed by adding the direct object *her slope* to the participle *choosing*. The third is formed by adding the adverb phrase *by the award* to the participle *honored*.

In the chart, each participial phrase is located after the noun it modifies. It could also go at the beginning of the sentence.

EXAMPLE: *Honored by the award*, the esteemed poet expressed his thanks.

Exercise 4 **Recognizing Participial Phrases** Copy the sentences below onto your paper. Then, underline each participial phrase and draw an arrow pointing from it to the word it modifies.

EXAMPLE: On the table, I saw several packages wrapped in gold paper.

- Known for its cold weather, Minnesota has an abundance of snow.
- My neighbor needed help shoveling his sidewalk.
- Gripping the shovel, I went to work.
- The driveway, covered in ice, seemed huge.
- Finishing up, we went inside to warm our hands.



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