

Participial Adjectives

Both present and past participles can be used as adjectives. How can you tell the difference between the two?

A. One way to understand these two forms has to do with **cause** and **effect**.

1. Present participles are **the cause** of something.
2. Past participles show the person or thing has **received an effect**.

For example:

*The movie was **frightening** the children.*

Explanation: In this example, the movie is **the cause** of the children being afraid.

*The children were **frightened** by the movie.*

Explanation: In this example, the children received the action of the past participle.

B. One can also view these two forms as the present participle **making something happen** and past participle **describing a state of being**.

For example:

*The explanations were very **confusing**.*

*The students were very **confused**.*

Let's work with some other verbs.

Use the present or past participial form of the word given in parentheses depending on the meaning of the sentence.

1. The (bore) _____ meeting lasted forever.
2. I really love working with (excite) _____ people.
3. The (lose) _____ team said they would win the next game.

4. When Jane couldn't find her credit card, her (worry) _____
mother called the credit card company to cancel it.
5. Two days later, Jane's supposedly (steal) _____ card
was found in her bedroom.
6. As the boys played ball outside, the sound of (break) _____
_____ glass announced that a ball had hit the window.
7. Some people are totally (fascinate) _____ by the
book that describes some codes in Leonardo da Vinci's paintings.
8. The da Vinci Code tells a very (fascinate) _____
story.
9. Students who are (interest) _____ in signing up for
the history class should make a line here.
10. Professors become extremely (annoy) _____ when cell
phones go off in their classes.

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