



Participles Used as Adjectives

Both present and past participles are used with the verbs *to be* and *to have* to create common verb tenses, but they can also be used as adjectives. Since there is a slight difference in meaning between the present and the past participles when they are used as adjectives, it is very important to choose the appropriate form.

- Present participles are formed by adding *-ing* to the verb stem. As an adjective, a present participle modifies a noun that affects someone or something else.

The new song is interesting.

The new song was interesting.

- Past participles are formed by adding *-ed*, to the verb stem, but some of the irregular forms may end in *-d*, *-en*, *-n*, or *-t*. As an adjective, a past participle modifies a noun that is affected by someone or something else.

The fans are interested in the new song.

The fans were interested in the new song.

- Participles generally come before the noun they modify. They may also be linked to the subject of the sentence by a linking verb such as *to be* or *to feel*.

The park is a frightening place at night.

Steve felt frightened as he walked alone in the park at night.

Practice Exercise

In the sentences below, fill in the correct participles of the verbs in parentheses.

1. People who constantly complain are very _____ (annoy) to me.
2. Whenever Adrian gets _____ (bore), he goes fishing.

3. The students were _____ (confuse) by the Professor's lecture.
4. Most of the news on television is _____ (depress).
5. The Ruttles were very _____ (excite) to learn that their concert was sold out.
6. Babysitting young children can be _____ (exhaust) for many people.
7. Steve was so _____ (fascinate) by the book that he finished it in one evening.
8. Would you be _____ (frighten) if you saw a vampire?
9. After eating a _____ (satisfy) meal, the cat washed her face.
10. When Dagmar looked in the mirror, she was _____ (surprise) to see that she had a leaf in her hair.

Answers

1. People who constantly complain are very annoying to me.
2. Whenever Adrian gets bored, he goes fishing.
3. The students were confused by the Professor's lecture.
4. Most of the news on television is depressing.
5. The Ruttles were very excited to learn that their concert was sold out.
6. Babysitting young children can be exhausting for many people.
7. Steve was so fascinated by the book that he finished it in one evening.
8. Would you be frightened if you saw a vampire?
9. After eating a satisfying meal, the cat washed her face.
10. When Dagmar looked in the mirror, she was surprised to see that she had a leaf in her hair.

