

Painting with Parts of Speech

Participles



Adapted from Harry Noden's *Image Grammar* (1999), Don and Jenny Killgallon's *Grammar for Middle School* (2006), and Constance Weaver's *The Grammar Plan Book* (2007)



Compare and contrast the sentences below.

He crossed the street.

Rollerblading, he crossed the street.

He crossed the street, whistling.

He crossed the street, followed by a Great Dane.



To “**paint**” with a **participle**, tag an *ing* or *ed* verb onto a sentence.

Participle: an *ing* or *ed* verb added onto a sentence

Example:

Squealing with delight, the birthday boy ripped open his presents.

Copy the definition and example in your Writer's Notebook (WN)



Sentence with no participles:

The toddler cried on the kitchen floor.

Sentence with two *ing* participles:

Kicking and screaming, the toddler cried on the kitchen floor.

Sentence with two *ing* participial phrases:

Kicking the white tiles, screaming for a cookie, the toddler cried on the kitchen floor.



Sentence with no participle:

Jeremy collapsed on the 30-yard line.

Sentence with an *ed* participle:

Jeremy collapsed on the 30-yard line, crushed.

Sentence with an *ed* participial phrase:

Jeremy collapsed on the 30-yard line, crushed beneath the linebacker's massive frame.



Sentence with no participles:

Molly bowed before the crowd.

Sentence with one *ing* and one *ed* participle:

Surprised, Molly bowed before the crowd,
smiling.

Sentence with one *ing* and one *ed* participial phrase:

Surprised by the thundering applause, Molly bowed before the crowd, smiling widely at her parents in the front row.



Participles can *begin* a sentence:

Chasing a tennis ball, the Golden Retriever barreled across the backyard.

Participles can *interrupt* a sentence:

The Golden Retriever, chasing a tennis ball, barreled across the backyard.

Participles can *end* a sentence:

The Golden Retriever barreled across the backyard, chasing a tennis ball.



Participial phrases are always set off by punctuation, usually commas:

The weatherman, pointing anxiously at a colorful radar map, predicted flash floods.



Examples of participles from literature:

Narrowing his beady eyes, he read the title of one of the books.

—Lemony Snicket, *The Bad Beginning*



Examples of participles from literature:

Then, wearing only my undershorts, and streaked head to toe with mud like one of those lost guys from the Amazon rainforest, I went in to break the news to Mom.

—Edward Bloor, *Tangerine*



Examples of participles from literature:

The shirt was silk paisley, unbuttoned halfway down his hairless chest.

—Rick Riordan, *The Lightning Thief*



Examples of participles from literature:

It was raining, washing all traces of the snow away in clear, icy ribbons down the side of the walkway.

—Stephenie Meyer, *Twilight*



Identify participles from literature:

Pedaling rapidly down the path, Jonas felt oddly proud to have joined those who took the pills.

—Lois Lowry, *The Giver*



Identify participles from literature:

Then, propping the hatchet in a crack in the rock wall, he had pulled the head of his spear against it, carving a thin piece off each time, until the thick end tapered down to a needle point.

—Gary Paulsen, *Hatchet*



Identify participles from literature:

We pushed open the door to the back room and found four or five little kids, about eight years old or younger, huddled in a corner.

—S.E. Hinton, *The Outsiders*



Identify participles from literature:

It slices above my right eyebrow, opening a gash that sends a gush running down my face, blinding my eye, filling my mouth with the sharp, metallic taste of my own blood.

—Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*



Arrange participles from literature:

Create a sentence with the sentence strips. Write the sentence, punctuating correctly, and underline and label the participial phrases.

in the rear

sat

dressed not in his usual two-piece suit

feeling ridiculous

Artemis

but in normal teenager clothing



Arrange participles from literature:

Create a sentence with the sentence strips. Write the sentence, punctuating correctly, and underline and label the participial phrases.

Artemis sat in the rear, feeling ridiculous,
dressed not in his usual two-piece suit, but in
normal teenager clothing.

—Eoin Colfer, *Artemis Fowl: The Opal Deception*



Imitate participles from literature:

Write a sentence about a different subject, imitating the structure of the model sentence. Underline and label the participial phrases.

The little bag was made of faded green material, gathered at the top with a black string.
—Jeanne DuPrau, *The City of Ember*



Combine with participles:

Combine the sentences below to make one sentence with a participial phrase. Underline and label the participial phrase.

Argon heaved a massive sigh.

+

Argon rested his hands on both knees.

=



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Combine the sentences below to make one sentence with a participial phrase. Underline and label the participial phrase.

Argon heaved a massive sigh.

+

Argon rested his hands on both knees.

=

Argon heaved a massive sigh, resting his hands on both knees.

—Eoin Colfer, *Artemis Fowl: The Opal Deception*



Combine with participles:

Combine the sentences below to make one sentence with a participial phrase. Underline and label the participial phrase.

I hug the rocks.

+

I move slowly in the direction of the blood.

+

I search for him.

=



Combine with participles:

Combine the sentences below to make one sentence with a participial phrase. Underline and label the participial phrase.

I hug the rocks.

+

I move slowly in the direction of the blood.

+

I search for him.

=

Hugging the rocks, I move slowly in the direction of the blood, searching for him.

—Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*



Expand with participles:

Write the sentence below, filling in the blanks with participial phrases. Underline and label each participial phrase.

_____, the river was a brute force,
_____.
—Christopher Paolini, *Eragon*



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Write the sentence below, filling in the blanks with participial phrases. Underline and label each participial phrase.

_____, the river was a brute force,
_____.
—Christopher Paolini, *Eragon*

Gorged with hundreds of tiny streams, the river was a brute force, battling against the rocks and boulders that barred its way.
—Christopher Paolini, *Eragon*



Expand with participles:

Write the sentence below, filling in the blanks with participial phrases. Underline and label each participial phrase.

Now he was on the bridge, _____,
_____.

—Lois Lowry, *The Giver*



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Write the sentence below, filling in the blanks with participial phrases. Underline and label each participial phrase.

Now he was on the bridge, _____,
_____.

—Lois Lowry, *The Giver*

Now he was on the bridge, hunched over on the bicycle, pedaling steadily.

—Lois Lowry, *The Giver*



Compose with participles:

In response to the following picture prompts, write your own sentences with participial phrases. Underline and label each participial phrase.











Revise for participial phrases:

In a piece of your own writing, find two places where you can add details and sentence variety with participial phrases. Mark your revisions on your most recent draft.