

THE PARTICIPIAL PHRASE

REMINDER: A participle is used as an adjective and ends in various ways. A present participle always ends with *ing* as does the gerund, but remember that it is an adjective. A past participle ends with *ed*, *n*, or irregularly.

Examples: played, broken, brought, sung, seeing, having seen, being seen, seen, having been seen. Participles modify nouns and pronouns and can precede or follow the word modified.

A participial phrase is made up of a participle and any complements (direct objects, predicate nominatives, predicate adjectives, or modifiers) like the gerund. A participial phrase that comes at the beginning of the sentence is always followed by a comma and modifies the subject of the sentence.

NOTE:

- Do not confuse participles that end in *ing* with gerunds. Participles are used as adjectives; gerunds are used as nouns.

EXERCISE: Find the participial phrase in the following sentences. Then, mention what each participle modifies.

1. The swimmer, shaking with cold, clambered out of the water.

Participle Phrase: _____ **Modifies:** _____

2. Trying to open the gate, I tore my coat.

Participle Phrase: _____ **Modifies:** _____

3. Down the alley came a large pickup truck loaded with boxes and furniture.

Participle Phrase: _____ **Modifies:** _____

4. Appreciated for his contribution, Dr. Mathew was awarded a trip to Paris.

Participle Phrase: _____ **Modifies:** _____

5. The soldier, having saluted his superior, continued on his way.

Participle Phrase: _____ **Modifies:** _____

6. Building quickly, the clouds towered overhead.

Participle Phrase: _____ **Modifies:** _____

7. Shouting angrily, the man chased the thief.

Participle Phrase: _____ **Modifies:** _____

8. The blankets piled on the bed are clean.

Participle Phrase: _____ **Modifies:** _____

9. Moving with grace and stealth, the cheetah was stalking the deer.

Participle Phrase: _____ **Modifies:** _____

10. Waiting for the bus, we discussed the trick plays in today's game plan.

Participle Phrase: _____ **Modifies:** _____

11. The teacher, having retired, could now travel widely.

Participle Phrase: _____ **Modifies:** _____

12. Looking down at his shoes, Allen noticed that they were untied.

Participle Phrase: _____ **Modifies:** _____

13. The spruce trees, having been planted and nurtured, were ready to harvest.

Participle Phrase: _____ **Modifies:** _____

14. The German shepherd lying by that man's feet is a guide dog.

Participle Phrase: _____ **Modifies:** _____

15. The trophy won by the baseball team will be displayed in the lobby.

Participle Phrase: _____ **Modifies:** _____

ANSWER KEYS:

	PARTICIPIAL PHRASE	MODIFIES
1.	Shaking with cold	swimmer
2.	Trying to open the gate	I
3.	loaded with boxes and furniture	truck
4.	Appreciated for his contribution,	Dr. Mathew
5.	having saluted his superior	soldier
6.	Building quickly	clouds
7.	Shouting angrily	man
8.	piled on the bed	blankets
9.	Moving with grace and stealth	cheetah
10.	Waiting for the bus	We
11.	having retired	teacher
12.	Looking down at his shoes	Allen
13.	having been planted and nurtured	trees
14.	lying by that man's feet	German shepherd
15.	won by the baseball team	trophy