

Participial Phrases

- 16f.** A **participial phrase** consists of a participle and any modifiers or complements the participle has. The entire phrase is used as an adjective.

An **absolute phrase** consists of (1) a participle or participial phrase, (2) a noun or pronoun that the participle or participial phrase modifies, and (3) any other modifiers of that noun or pronoun. The entire word group is used as an adverb to modify an independent clause of a sentence by telling *how*, *when*, or *why*.

EXAMPLES **Carefully guarded for many years**, the secret codes in quilts that slaves made have been revealed. [The participial phrase *Carefully guarded for many years* modifies the noun *codes*.]

National interest in such codes having grown in recent years, Raymond Dobard and Jacqueline Tobin decided to write a book that explains the codes' meanings. [The absolute phrase *National interest in such codes having grown in recent years* modifies the independent clause.]

EXERCISE In each sentence below, underline the participial or absolute phrase once and the word or words it modifies twice.

Examples 1. The sun setting behind the mountain and clouds, the photographer captured the beautiful panorama on film.

2. Dribbling the basketball, Ryan moved up the court.

- Spinning like a whirlwind, the gyroscope became a green-and-white blur.
- A child having been lost in the woods, search parties were organized and dogs and helicopters were requested.
- Our basketball team, headed for the playoffs, focused on attitude and teamwork.
- Receiving the award as Teacher of the Year, Ms. Wilkinson laughed, then cried.
- Having sunk this putt, has Tiger Woods made the lowest score in today's round of play?
- Yuri missed all the wildflowers among the grasses, mown just the day before.
- The framing timbers prepared, the carpenter could begin the room addition.
- Prop managers will need to arrange the scenery found in the storage area.
- Alerted to expect a pop quiz, we were surprised not to have one.
- This is the first letter, having been stamped and mailed today, to be sent on the new stationery.