

Participles and Participial Phrases

16e. A *participle* is a verb form that can be used as an adjective.

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.

PARTICIPLE The **darkening** skies made the campers hurry their preparations.

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

ABSOLUTE PHRASE **The dog having waited inside all day**, we hurried to let him out.

EXERCISE A In each sentence below, circle the noun or pronoun that the underlined participial phrase modifies.

Example 1. Tapping his pencil on the desk, Mitch considered the last test question.

1. The baby, crying from hunger, awakened everyone in the house.
2. Cooked too long, the roast was dry and tasteless.
3. Spinning on our skates, we attracted the attention of all the other skaters.
4. The money collected by the students went toward their class trip.
5. Glancing at the calendar, Mika remembered her dentist appointment.

EXERCISE B In each of the following sentences, underline each participial or absolute phrase once and the word or words that it modifies twice.

Example 1. Ticking loudly, the grandfather clock in the hall struck midnight.

6. The music having finished, Jerry and Eileen walked slowly off the dance floor.
7. Jiro, engrossed in the chemistry experiment, completely forgot what time it was.
8. Jumping into the air, the collie caught the stick.
9. Gary and Felix, tossing a football back and forth, talked about the upcoming game.
10. Onto the stage walked the comedian, straightening her jacket.
11. Riding through the park, the friendly cyclists greeted everyone.
12. Having removed his shoes, Takao stepped into the living room.
13. Cara, checking her rearview mirror, noticed how closely the car was following her.
14. Tired from his long hike, Jorge flopped into the chair.
15. Highways named for famous people cross many sections of the country.