

Modifiers: Present and Past Participles

FORM: The **present participle** is the “ing” form of a verb used to create the continuous tenses. The **past participle** is the form of the verb used to create the perfect tenses. Regular verbs use “ed” for the past participle.

USE: The **present** and **past participles** can be used to do the job of an adjective to modify nouns. But you have to be careful about whether the noun is the **agent** or the **recipient**.

In English sentences we distinguish between the **agent** of the action we are talking about (who or what DID the action) and the **recipient** of the action (who or what the action affected). **Present participles** modify **agents**. **Past participles** modify **recipients** of the action.

The participles can be used after the verb “to be” or in front of the noun or pronoun.

EXAMPLES: *The movie was interesting.* (The movie is causing the interest, so it is the **agent**.)
The audience was interested in the movie. (The audience is reacting to the movie, so they are the **recipients**.)

A frightening nightmare. (The nightmare is causing the fright, so it is the **agent**.)
A frightened child. (The child is reacting to the nightmare, so they are the **recipient**.)

Choose either the PRESENT or the PAST PARTICIPLE of the given word to fill in the blank. Identify the agent and recipient in each sentence.

1. I hope my Mom is _____ (satisfy) with her birthday gift.
2. I hope the birthday gift is _____ (satisfy).
3. It was a _____ (relax) vacation.
4. Rita should be _____ (relax) after spending three weeks on the beach.
5. The kids were really _____ (excite) when we arrived at the zoo.
6. The zoo was really _____ (excite).
7. We received _____ (depress) news about her husband.
8. We were _____ (depress) to hear that her husband had died.

Intermediate 3 – Exercise 6 – Modifiers: Present and Past Participles

9. All of the extra work was _____ (exhaust).
10. Pamela is a little _____ (exhaust) because of all the extra work she had to do.
11. My brother's behaviour is _____ (worry).
12. My parents are _____ (worry) about my brother's behaviour.
13. The English lecture was _____ (frustrate).
14. The teacher is _____ (frustrate) because no one understands his explanation.

Are the sentences below correct? If they are not, make the necessary corrections.

1. The movie was confused. I didn't understand it.
2. She was confusing. She didn't understand where to go.
3. Let's do something different. I am very boring.
4. This is boring! Let's do something different.
5. The mystery is quite puzzling. We are not sure what the answer is.
6. He thinks she is interested. He is going to ask her out on a date.
7. I was so embarrassing. I fell down in front of the whole class!
8. I fell down in front of the whole class. It was embarrassing.
9. He was loud and drunk. He was embarrassing. We pretended we didn't know him.
10. The child was very exciting because it was Christmas the next day.
11. The race was extremely close. It was really exciting.
12. I am very exciting about the party tonight.