

Participle Phrase

A participle may be modified by an adverb or by a prepositional phrase, and it may have a complement. These related words combine with the participle in a *participial phrase*.

A participial phrase consists of a participle and its related words, such as modifiers and complements, all of which act together as an adjective.



Examples: **Switching its tail**, the panther paced. [participle with object *tail*]



She heard me **sighing loudly**. [participle with the adverb modifier *loudly*]



Living in Nebraska, he learned to respect blizzards. [participle with prepositional phrase modifier *in Nebraska*]



Quickly grabbing the keys, I dashed for the door. [Notice that quickly, which precedes the participle and modifies it, is included in the phrase.]

Note: A participle should be placed very close to the word it modifies. Otherwise the phrase may appear to modify another word and the sentence may not make sense.

Example: He saw a moose riding his motorcycle through the woods.