

## The Participle

**Verbals are forms of verbs that are used as other parts of speech. There are three kinds of verbals: participles, gerunds, and infinitives.**

**The participle is a verb form used as an adjective.**

Waxed floors can be dangerously slippery.

Twirling their canes, the dancers tapped across the state.

**There are two kinds of participles: present participles and past participles**

(1) Present participles consist of the plain form of the verb plus –ing.

Examples: The **pouring** rain drove us inside.

**Watching** the clock, the coach became worried.

Verb forms used as adjectives, such as *pouring* and *watching*, are participles. Although participles are formed from verbs, they are not used to stand alone as verbs. A participle may, however, be used with a helping verb to form a verb phrase:

The rain **was pouring**.

The coach **had been watching** the clock.

(2) Past participles usually consist of the plain form of the verb plus-d or –ed. Other are irregularly formed.

Examples: A **peeled** and **sliced** cucumber can be added to a garden salad.

The speaker, **known** for her eloquent speeches, drew applause from the audience.

Like a present participle, a past participle can also be part of a verb phrase. Just as in the case of the present participle, a past participle used in a verb phrase is considered as part of the verb, not as an adjective.

Examples: She **was told** that tickets were available.

She **has corrected** her homework.

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## What do the participles as adjectives modify?