

Participles used as adjectives

EXERCISE 1 Write down the present and the past participle of these verbs. Also add the German translation.

Tipp: Achte auf die Besonderheiten bei der Rechtschreibung!

present participle (+ ing)

- ein -e am Wortende fällt weg
- ein -ie wird zu y
- Konsonant nach kurzem, betonten Vokal wird verdoppelt

past participle (+ ed)

- nach -e hängt man nur ein -d an
- ein -y nach Konsonant wird zu -ie
- Konsonant nach kurzem, betonten Vokal wird verdoppelt
- manche Verben sind unregelmäßig (3. Spalte)

Verb	present participle		past participle	
play	<i>playing</i>	<i>spielend</i>	<i>played</i>	<i>gespielt</i>
take				
touch				
do				
carry				
stop				
open				
plan				
close				
write				
make				
explain				
bring				
buy				
catch				
lie				
try				

EXERCISE 2.1 Mark present and past participles in different colors and translate the phrases into German.

a) the playing children	
b) the painted house	
c) a used car	
d) the singing girl	
e) the stolen bike	
f) a broken window	

2.2 Translate these expressions into English: *ein verstecktes Ei – ein schlafender Drache – ein verwundeter Mann – ein gekauftes Buch – eine wartende Frau*

EXERCISE 3 Present participle or past participle? Fill in the right form.

FRIGHTEN (*Angst einjagen, ängstigen*): frightening / frightened

- a) The kids ran away from the _____ ghost.
 b) Mum tried to calm down the _____ kids: "Don't worry, it wasn't real!"

CONFUSE (*verwirren*): confusing / confused

- a) Emma tried to read the _____ instructions (*Anleitung*); she couldn't understand anything.
 b) After she had read the instructions, Emma was really _____ and didn't know what to do.

EXCITE (*aufregen*): exciting / excited

- a) This is really an _____ book! You should read it.
 b) Before her first date, Sally was very _____.

FASCINATE (*faszinieren*): fascinating / fascinated

- a) Peter is a scientist. He studies insects. He thinks they are _____.
 b) Peter has always been _____ by insects.

DEPRESS (*deprimieren*): depressing / depressed

- a) Don't watch that film. It is really _____.
 b) Ben has been sad and _____ ever since his girlfriend left him.

EXERCISE 3 Fill in the gaps with the present participle or the past participle.

- a) Ellen tried to calm down the _____ (cry) child.
 b) The kids found the _____ (steal) diamonds in a rubbish bin.
 c) Sally tried to listen at the _____ (close) door, but she couldn't hear a thing.
 d) My mom gave me one of her home-_____ (make) cakes for my birthday.
 f) We need an English-_____ (speak) secretary for our office.
 g) Dad called out to the _____ (play) children: "Come in! Dinner is ready!"
 h) Suzy took her _____ (break) car to the shop and asked the mechanic to repair it.
 i) The scientists showed us the new energy - _____ (save) technology they had invented.
 j) This article is really well-_____ (write).
 k) The party was held in a beautifully _____ (decorate) room.
 l) Peter found a _____ (hide) treasure in the garden.
 m) The warm, comfortable room with the big sofa looked _____ (invite).
 n) Give these poor _____ (freeze) children a bowl of hot soup!

Lösungen: Participles used as adjectives

EXERCISE 1

Verb	present participle		past participle	
play	<i>playing</i>	<i>spielend</i>	<i>played</i>	<i>gespielt</i>
take	taking	nehmend	taken	genommen
touch	touching	berührend	touched	berührt
do	doing	machend	done	gemacht
carry	carrying	tragend	carried	getragen
stop	stopping	stoppend	stopped	gestoppt
open	opening	öffnend	opened	geöffnet
plan	planning	planend	planned	geplant
close	closing	schließend	closed	geschlossen
write	writing	schreibend	written	geschrieben
make	making	machend	made	gemacht
explain	explaining	erklärend	explained	erklärt
bring	bringing	bringend	brought	gebracht
buy	buying	kaufend	bought	gekauft
catch	catching	fangend	caught	gefangen
lie	lying	legend / lügend	laid / lied	gelegen / gelogen
try	trying	versuchend	tried	versucht

EXERCISE 2.1 2.2 a hidden egg – a sleeping dragon – a wounded man – a bought book – a waiting woman

a) the playing children	die spielenden Kinder
b) the painted house	das gestrichene Haus
c) a used car	ein gebrauchtes Auto
d) the singing girl	das singende Mädchen
e) the stolen bike	das gestohlene Fahrrad
f) a broken window	ein zerbrochenes Fenster

EXERCISE 3 FRIGHTEN a) The kids ran away from the **frightening** ghost.

b) Mum tried to calm down the **frightened** kids: "Don't worry, it wasn't real!"

CONFUSE a) Emma tried to read the **confusing instructions** (*Anleitung*); she couldn't understand anything.

b) After she had read the instructions, Emma was really **confused** and didn't know what to do.

EXCITE a) This is really an **exciting** book! You should read it.

b) Before her first date, Sally was very **excited**.

FASCINATE a) Peter is a scientist. He studies insects. He thinks they are **fascinating**.

b) Peter has always been **fascinated** by insects.

DEPRESS a) Don't watch that film. It is really **depressing**.

b) Ben has been sad and **depressed** ever since his girlfriend left him.

EXERCISE 3 Fill in gaps with the present participle or the past participle.

a) Ellen tried to calm down the **crying** child.

b) The kids found the **stolen** diamonds in a rubbish bin.

c) Sally tried to listen at the **closed** door, but she couldn't hear a thing.

d) My mom gave me one of her home-**made** cakes for my birthday.

f) We need an English-**speaking** secretary for our office.

g) Dad called out to the **playing** children: "Come in! Dinner is ready!"

h) Suzy took her **broken** car to the shop and asked the mechanic to repair it.

i) The scientists showed us the new energy - **saving** technology they had invented.

j) This article is really well-**written**.

k) The party was held in a beautifully **decorated** room.

l) Peter found a **hidden** treasure in the garden.

m) The warm, comfortable room with the big sofa looked **inviting**.

n) Give these poor **freezing** children a bowl of hot soup!

Participles replacing relative clauses

EXERCISE 1 Replace the relative clause with a participle construction.

Tipp: Um einen Relativsatz in eine Partizipialkonstruktion umzuwandeln, entferne zuerst das Relativpronomen (who, which, that). Dann verwandle das Verb (hier: was sitting) in ein Partizip. Verwende das present participle (visiting), wenn der Satz im Aktiv steht (I visit, you are visiting, he visited ...). Verwende das past participle, wenn der Satz im Passiv steht (I am visited, you have been visited ...).

EXAMPLE: The cat which was sitting on the sofa was black and white

-> The cat sitting on the sofa was black and white.

- a) Let's talk to the man who is working over there.
- b) I liked the band that played at the party.
- c) I live in a city that was founded two thousand years ago.
- d) The children who are playing in the garden are my brothers.
- e) There were two students who were studying in the library.
- f) She knows the boy who delivers the newspapers.
- g) All the singers who were discovered by this agent became very successful.
- h) The vegetables which are grown here are delicious and very healthy.
- i) My mum likes the food which is bought at the local store.
- j) The old man who was hurt in the accident is better now.
- k) She tried not to wake up the baby boy who was sleeping in his bed.
- l) The pets which are sold at the pet shop look very unhappy.
- m) Animals that are kept in small cages often die early.

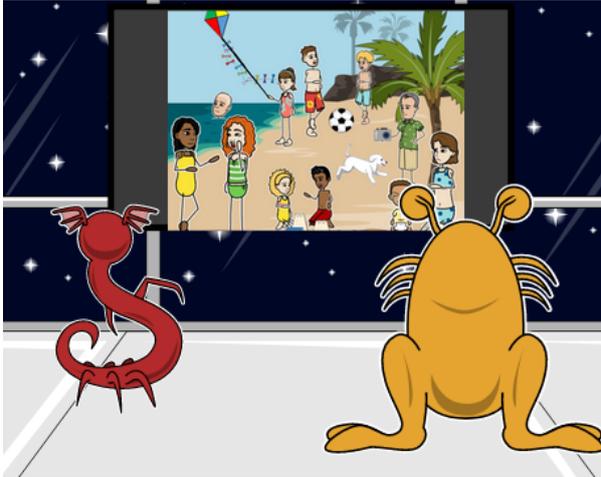
EXERCISE 2 Replace the participle constructions with relative clauses.

Tipp: Hier musst du zunächst entscheiden, welches Relativpronomen du brauchst – who für Menschen oder which für Dinge. Dann musst du das Partizip in ein Vollverb im Aktiv (singing -> sings / sang / is singing ...) oder Passiv (opened -> is opened, was opened ...) verwandeln. Achte hier auf die Zeit im Hauptsatz.

EXAMPLE: I know the men working next door. -> I know the men who work / are working next door.

- a) Sally likes the woman living next door.
- b) Parents working full time look forward to being with their kids on the weekend.
- c) The window broken by the stone had to be repaired.
- d) I love the song playing on the radio.
- e) The diamonds stolen by the thief were found in a rubbish bin.
- f) Meat bought at the supermarket is often not as fresh as meat bought at a good butchery.
- g) Cakes made by my mom are the best.
- h) She looked at the fly drowning in her lemonade.
- i) Mike and Tom helped the man looking for the station.
- j) I often read books written by unknown authors.

EXERCISE 3 a) Underline all participle constructions in the text and turn them into relative clauses.



1 Create your own at [Storyboard That](#)

In a galaxy far away, there were two little aliens working in a spaceship factory. The spaceships produced there were very fast and could cross the universe in a split of a second. The aliens, dreaming of travelling the galaxy themselves one day, often talked about the mysterious places described by space travelers. For example, the great discoverer Zrk'ka had just gone to a planet called "Earth" to observe its native inhabitants and to learn about their lives.

The data collected during the expedition was immediately broadcast on television. Amazed, the aliens looked at pictures showing weird creatures with only two arms and two legs. The earthlings appeared to have some very strange habits. For example, they slept on beds standing on the floor, while the aliens slept in beds hanging from the ceiling. They ate food made from plants and animals, while the aliens only ate food made from stones. They ...

b) Continue the text using more participle constructions. For example, you can write about the objects that the aliens and the earthlings use:

- The earthlings wore glasses helping them to see better. The alien wore glasses keeping dust from their eyes.

Lösungen: Participles replacing relative clauses

- EXERCISE 1**
- a) Let's talk to the man **working** over there.
 - b) I liked the band **playing** at the party.
 - c) I live in a city **founded** two thousand years ago.
 - d) The children **playing** in the garden are my brothers.
 - e) There were two students **studying** in the library.
 - f) She knows the boy **delivering** the newspapers.
 - g) All the singers **discovered** by this agent became very successful.
 - h) The vegetables **grown** here are delicious and very healthy.
 - i) My mum likes the food **bought** at the local store.
 - j) The old man **hurt** in the accident is better now.
 - k) She tried not to wake up the baby boy **sleeping** in his bed.
 - l) The pets **sold** at the pet shop look very unhappy.
 - m) Animals **kept** in small cages often die early.

- EXERCISE 2**
- a) Sally likes the woman **who lives** next door.
 - b) Parents **who work** full time look forward to being with their kids on the weekend.
 - c) The window **which was broken / had been broken** by the stone had to be repaired.
 - d) I love the song **which is playing** on the radio.
 - e) The diamonds **which were stolen** by the thief were found in a rubbish bin.
 - f) Meat **which is bought** at the supermarket is often not as fresh as meat **which is bought** at a good butchery.
 - g) Cakes **which are made** by my mom are the best.
 - h) She looked at the fly **which was drowning** in her lemonade.
 - i) Mike and Tom helped the man **who was looking** for the station.
 - j) I often read books **which are written / were written** ... by unknown authors.

- EXERCISE 3** a) Underline all participle constructions in the text and turn them into relative clauses.

In a galaxy far away, there were two little aliens **who worked / were working** in a spaceship factory. The spaceships **which were produced** there were very fast and could cross the universe in a split of a second. The aliens, **who dreamed** of travelling the galaxy themselves one day, often talked about the mysterious places **which had been described / were described** by space travelers. For example, the great discoverer Zrk'ka had just gone to a planet called "Earth" to observe its native inhabitants and to learn about their lives. The data **which was collected** during the expedition was immediately broadcasted on television. Amazed, the aliens looked at pictures **which showed** weird creatures with only two arms and two legs. The earthlings appeared to have some very strange habits. For example, they slept on beds **which stood** on the floor, while the aliens slept in beds **which hung** from the ceiling. They ate food **which was made** from plants and animals, while the aliens only ate food **which was made** from stones. They ...

Participles replacing subordinate clauses

EXERCISE 1.1 Turn the subordinate clauses into participle constructions.

EXAMPLE: Because I was working on the project, I didn't have any time to meet my friends.

-> *Working on the project*, I didn't have any time to meet my friends.

- a) While she was tidying up her room, she was listening to music.
- b) Because I was sick, I couldn't come to class.
- c) She didn't want to be disturbed because she was studying for her exams.
- d) Kate opened the door because she heard the doorbell.
- e) The dog started barking when it saw the strangers.
- f) While he was waiting for the bus he talked to his friend.
- g) Because she was so shocked by his behavior, she couldn't say a word.

1.2 Now write five or six sentences about a day in your life. You can start like this:

Hearing my alarm clock, I wake up. Taking a shower, I dream of breakfast. ...

EXERCISE 2 Underline the subordinate clauses and turn them into a participle construction.

Use *having + past participle* for events that happen before the main clause.

EXAMPLE: Because she was angry with her friends, Nina refused to go to the party with them. -> *Being angry with her friends*, Nina refused to ...

- a) After they had evacuated the residents, the bomb squad started to defuse the bomb.
- b) Josh decided to continue his education because he was convinced by his teacher.
- c) When she had finished school, Jane became an au pair in Australia.
- d) Five of the people who were killed in the accident were tourists.
- e) The flowers which are growing in your garden are very pretty.
- f) My sister is moving to Paris next month because she wants to improve her French.
- g) While I was working in the library, I stumbled upon this interesting book.
- h) He started reading the brochures that were lying on the small table.
- i) Joe got fired by his new boss even though he had been with the company for 15 years.
- j) Most of the people who work here have a university degree.
- k) We didn't go to the museum because we thought it was closed.
- l) While we were walking along the Seine, we took a lot of photos.

EXERCISE 3 Can you turn these subordinate clauses into participle constructions like those above? What is the problem? Think of more examples.

- a) After the residents had been evacuated, the bomb squad started to defuse the bomb.
- b) Josh decided to continue his education because his teacher convinced him.
- c) ...

EXERCISE 4.1 Turn the participle constructions into relative clauses.

Example: Having done her homework, the girl went outside to play.

After she had done her homework, the girl ...

- a) Hoping to escape the zombie invasion, a small group of survivors moved to a small village in the countryside.
- b) They took a walk outside looking for food and other resources.
- c) Not paying attention, Jane ran into a cow fence and cut herself.
- d) Having heard her scream, all zombies in the vicinity became alert.
- e) Attracted by the smell of fresh blood, ten zombies approached the group of survivors.
- f) Having killed five of them, Jane began to hope they could get out of this mess.
- g) Having been bitten in the shoulder, she realized her mistake.
- h) People bitten by a zombie usually get sick and die within a few days.
- i) Having died from the infection, they resurrect as zombies themselves.
- j) Fearing to turn, Jane begged her friend Jack to kill her.
- k) Being in love with Jane, Jack couldn't bring himself to shoot her in the head.
- l) Having died in his arms, she reanimated and bit off Jack's hand.
- m) Having killed all the remaining survivors, the undead ruled the world.

4.2 Now write your own story using as many participles replacing subordinate clauses as possible. If you can't think of a story right now, you can also write about a film or book you know. For example:

- Having killed Harry's parents, Lord Voldemort disappeared.
- Growing up with his mean uncle, aunt and cousin, Harry was very miserable.
- Having delivered a letter from Albus Dumbledore, Hagrid took Harry to Diagon Alley to buy his school supplies. ...

Lösung: Participles replacing subordinate clauses

- EXERCISE 1.1**
- a) **Tidying up her room**, she was listening to music.
 - b) **Being sick**, I couldn't come to class.
 - c) **Studying for her exams**, she didn't want to be disturbed because she was studying for her exams.
 - d) **Hearing the doorbell**, Kate opened the door.
 - e) **Seeing the strangers**, the dog started barking.
 - f) **Waiting for the bus**, he talked to his friend.
 - g) **(Being) shocked by his behavior**, she couldn't say a word.

- EXERCISE 2**
- a) **Having evacuated** the residents, the bomb squad started to defuse the bomb.
 - b) **Convinced / having been convinced by his teacher**, Josh decided to continue his education.
 - c) **Having finished school**, Jane became an au pair in Australia.
 - d) Five of the people **killed** in the accident were tourists.
 - e) The flowers **growing** in your garden are very pretty.
 - f) **Wanting to improve her French**, my sister is moving to Paris next month.
 - g) **Working in the library**, I stumbled upon this interesting book.
 - h) He started reading the brochures **lying** on the small table.
 - i) **Having been with the company for 15 years**, Joe got fired by his new boss.
 - j) Most of the people **working** here have a university degree.
 - k) We didn't go to the museum **thinking it was closed**.
 - l) **Walking along the Seine**, we took a lot of photos.

EXERCISE 3 Das Subjekt des Haupt- und Nebensatzes ist nicht identisch. Damit die Sätze funktionieren, muss es noch einmal genannt werden:

- a) **The residents having been evacuated**, the bomb squad started to defuse the bomb.

EXERCISE 4.1

- a) **Because they hoped to escape the zombie invasion**, a small group of survivors moved to a small village in the countryside.
- b) They took a walk outside **while they looked for food and other resources**.
- c) **Because she wasn't paying attention**, Jane ran into a cow fence and cut herself.
- d) **After they had heard her scream**, all zombies in the vicinity became alert.
- e) **Because they were attracted by the smell of fresh blood**, ten zombies approached the group of survivors.
- f) **When she had killed five of them**, Jane began to hope they could get out of this mess.
- g) **After she had been bitten in the shoulder**, she realized her mistake.
- h) People **who are bitten** by a zombie usually get sick and die within a few days.
- i) **When they have died from the infection**, they resurrect as zombies themselves.
- j) **Because she feared to turn**, Jane begged her friend Jack to kill her.
- k) **Because he was in love with Jane**, Jack couldn't bring himself to shoot her in the head.
- l) **After she had died in his arms**, she reanimated and bit off Jack's hand.
- m) **When they had killed all of the remaining survivors**, the undead ruled the world.

Verb of perception + Participle

EXERCISE 1 Make full sentences using verbs of perception, objects and participles.

EXAMPLE: Peter plays the piano. Kate hears *him play*.

- We paint the house. Our parents see ...
- Sue sings. Her sister listens to ...
- Mr Smith plays Othello. The audience are watching ...
- You clean the bathroom. I can see ...
- They help their mom. She observes ...
- I dance. You see ...

EXERCISE 2 Fill in the gaps with the words in brackets.

- Peter and Jane are camping in the woods. It's past 9pm. They are watching _____ (the sky / get darker) and they are listening to _____ (birds / sing).
- It's almost completely dark now. Lying in their tent, they hear _____ (owls / screech) and _____ (the wind / whisper) in the leaves.
- Because they can't sleep, Peter and Jane start telling each other funny stories. They are laughing and giggling. But then, suddenly, Jane grabs Peter's arm and says: "Peter, I think I can hear _____ (something / move) outside!"
- Peter listens closely. Jane is right! He can hear _____ (steps / come closer).
- "What are we going to do now?" he whispers. Jane gets up. In the dark, Peter holds his breath while he hears (she / open) the zipper of the tent.
- Jane gets out of the tents and looks around. She can still hear _____ (someone / move) close by.
- "Who's there?" she calls out. Now she hears _____ (a deep voice / mumble) incomprehensible words. Jane tries to keep cool while she feels _____ (her pulse / quicken).
- "Who are you?" she calls again. "Come out! I can see _____ (you / hide) behind that tree!"
- Jane hears _____ (the bushes / rustle) as the thing leaves its hiding place.
- She watches _____ (something big and dark / approach) her and hastily steps back.
- Now she realizes that the thing is not a person. It's a huge werewolf! She feels _____ (a scream / escape) her lips.
- She hears _____ (the werewolf / grumble) and gets very scared.
- The werewolf clears his throat. "Excuse me," he says in a deep, growling voice. "I live right around the corner from here, and I've been listening to _____ (you two / talk) for the last two hours. I couldn't close an eye. Would you mind shutting up and going to sleep? I have to get up early for work tomorrow."

EXERCISE 3 Infinitive or participle?

Tipp: Man verwendet den Infinitiv, wenn der Beobachter die Handlung ganz miterlebt hat. Man verwendet das present participle, wenn man nur einen Ausschnitt der Handlung gesehen/gehört ... hat.

- a) When I looked out the window, I saw my father _____ (work) in the garden.
- b) She saw him _____ (come) in and _____ (talk) to the waitress for a minute. Then he left again.
- c) While we were driving down the street, I noticed a few children _____ (play) on the playground.
- d) I saw a man _____ (jump) from a building.
- e) She saw him _____ (drop) the glass.
- f) For a few minutes we watched the couples _____ (dance) at the club; then we walked home.
- g) Jane noticed a woman _____ (try) to break into a house when we drove by.
- h) We all saw Bob _____ (pay) the bill before he left.
- i) When I came into the living room, I noticed my brother _____ (compose) a new song. When I returned an hour later, he still hadn't finished it.

Lösungen: Verb of perception + Participle

EXERCISE 1 a) We paint the house. Our parents see **us painting the house**.

b) Sue sing. Her sister listens to **her singing**

c) Mr Smith plays Othello. The audience are watching **him play**.

d) You clean the bathroom. I can see **you cleaning the bathroom**.

e) They help their mom. She observes **them helping their mom**.

f) I dance. You see **me dancing**.

EXERCISE 2 a) Peter and Jane are camping in the woods. It's past 9pm. They are watching **the sky getting darker** and they are listening to **birds singing**.

b) It's almost completely dark now. Lying in their tent, they hear **owls screeching** and **the wind whispering** in the leaves.

c) Because they can't sleep, Peter and Jane start telling each other funny stories. They are laughing and giggling. But then, suddenly, Jane grabs Peter's arm and says: "Peter, I think I can hear **something moving** outside!"

d) Peter listens closely. Jane is right! He can hear **steps coming closer**.

e) "What are we going to do now?" he whispers. Jane gets up. In the dark, Peter holds his breath while he hears **her opening** the zipper of the tent.

f) Jane gets out of the tents and looks around. She can still hear **someone moving** close by.

g) "Who's there?" she calls out. Now she hears **a deep voice mumbling** incomprehensible words. Jane tries to keep cool while she feels **her pulse quickening**.

h) "Who are you?" she calls again. "Come out! I can see **you hiding** behind that tree!"

i) Jane hears **the bushes rustling** as the thing leaves its hiding place.

j) She watches **something big and dark approaching** her and hastily steps back.

k) Now she realizes that the thing is not a person. It's a huge werewolf! She feels **a scream escaping** her lips.

l) She hears **the werewolf grumbling** and gets very scared.

m) The werewolf clears his throat. "Excuse me," he says in a deep, growling voice. "I live right around the corner from here, and I've been listening to **you two talking** for the last two hours. I couldn't close an eye. Would you mind shutting up and going to sleep? I have to get up early for work tomorrow."

EXERCISE 3 a) When I looked out the window, I saw my father **working** in the garden.

b) She saw him **come** in and **talk** to the waitress for a minute. Then he left again.

c) While we were driving down the street, I noticed a few children **playing** on the playground.

d) I saw a man **jump** from a building.

e) She saw him **drop** the glass.

f) For a few minutes we watched the couples **dancing** at the club; then we walked home.

g) Jane noticed a woman **trying** to break into a house when we drove by.

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