

Participles and Participial Phrases A

14e. A **participle** is a verb form that can be used as an adjective.

(1) Present participles end in *-ing*.

EXAMPLE The **threatening** weather caused us to delay our trip. [*Threatening* modifies *weather*.]

(2) Most past participles end in *-d* or *-ed*. Some are irregularly formed.

EXAMPLE The **worried** meteorologist issued a weather alert. [*Worried* modifies *meteorologist*.]

14f. A **participial phrase** consists of a participle and any modifiers or complements the participle has. The entire phrase is used as an adjective.

EXAMPLE We heeded the warning **given by the reporter**. [The participial phrase modifies the noun *warning*.]

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, draw one line under the participle used as an adjective and two lines under the word it modifies.

Example 1. A storm named Hurricane Albert had formed.

1. The roaring wind came first.
2. A concerned look was on my father's face.
3. The emergency instructions prepared by my mother came in handy.
4. In a few hours, our house had taped windows.
5. Candles brought by my mother were ready on the table.
6. My parents had also bought a large supply of bottled water.
7. The pouring rain beat against the windows.
8. The flickering lights prompted us to light the candles.
9. Huddled around the radio, we listened for weather updates.
10. Finally, the storm passed, leaving behind considerable damage.

EXERCISE B In each of the following sentences, draw one line under the participial phrase and two lines under the word or words it modifies.

Example 1. I saw a picture of a woolly mammoth lifting its hairy trunk.

11. Born during the Ice Age, woolly mammoths needed a great deal of hair.
12. The land, covered with ice, was a difficult place to survive.
13. Even a big beast protected by hair had trouble.
14. Searching for food, the woolly mammoths roamed the land.
15. Looking at pictures of these animals, I wonder how they survived at all.