

Participial adjective and participial relative clause

Participial adjective

A participial adjective is a word which is identical in form to the present or past participle of a verb. A participial adjective functions as an adjective.

Examples (in brackets)

(Stolen) watch

(Broken) wings

(Fallen) heroes

(Missing) child

(Smiling) face

An (unexpected) visitor

A (surprising) visit

Barking dogs seldom bite. (Here the participle barking functions as an adjective and modifies the noun dogs.)

A rolling stone gathers no moss. (Here the participle rolling functions as an adjective and modifies the noun stone.)

Just then an unexpected visitor turned up.

Participial relative clause

A participial relative clause is a clause which resembles a relative clause but which contains a participle instead of a finite verb. In the following examples, the first member of the pair contains a participial relative clause while the second contains an equivalent full relative clause.

The passengers injured in the accident were taken to hospital.

The passengers who were injured in the accident were taken to hospital.

The boy standing at the gate is my son.

The boy who is standing at the gate is my son.

The man arrested for stealing the watch has been released.

Participial adjective and participial relative clause

The man who was arrested for stealing the watch has been released.