

# Some uses of the participle - Part I

The participle has the following uses:

1. To form the continuous and perfect tenses.

Here is a quick review of the tenses that use the present and past participles.

I am writing. (Present continuous)

I was writing. (Past continuous)

I will be writing. (Future continuous)

I have written. (Present perfect)

I had written. (Past perfect)

I will have written. (Future perfect)

2. As an adjective

The participle can serve all the functions of the plain adjective.

Barking dogs seldom bite.

A rolling stone gathers no moss.

Don't cry over spilt milk.

In the following examples, the participles are used as part of the predicate.

The story was interesting.

He was left stranded.

In apposition to a noun

The participle can be used in apposition to a noun.

The woman, quivering and trembling, ran away.

As an object complement

A participle can be used as an object complement.

I found him somewhat recovered.

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She found the story quite interesting.

Here the participles recovered and interesting are the complements of the objects – him and study.

The participle can be used as a noun by placing the definite article before it.

The injured were taken to the hospital.

The dead leave their blessing upon the living.

As an adverb

The participle may be used as an adverb modifying an adjective.

It is piping hot.

He was dead drunk.