

Present participle or adjective

-ing forms are sometimes used as present participles. Sometimes they are used as adjectives.

When they are used as adjectives, they modify a noun. When they are used as present participles, they help form continuous tense forms.

Read the following sentences and state whether the -ing form is used as an adjective or a present participle.

1. It might seem surprising but I don't enjoy cricket.

Surprising is an adjective

Surprising is a present participle

2. It is a baffling situation.

Baffling is an adjective

Baffling is a present participle

3. The movie was very interesting.

Interesting is an adjective

Interesting is a present participle

Present participle or adjective

4. The news was exciting.

Exciting is an adjective

Exciting is a present participle

5. How long have you been waiting?

Waiting is an adjective

Waiting is a present participle

6. The dog is chasing the cat.

Chasing is an adjective

Chasing is a present participle

7. Barking dogs seldom bite.

Barking is an adjective

Barking is a present participle

8. Her performance was enthralling.

Enthralling is an adjective

Enthralling is a present participle

Present participle or adjective

Answers

1. a) Surprising is used as an adjective. (It modifies the copular verb seem. Note that copular verbs are modified by adjectives, not adverbs.)
2. a) Baffling is used as an adjective. (It modifies the noun situation.)
3. a) Interesting is used as an adjective.
4. a) Exciting is used as an adjective.
5. b) Waiting is used as a present participle. (It helps form the present continuous tense form.)
6. b) Chasing is used as a present participle.
7. a) Barking is used as an adjective.
8. a) Enthralling is used as an adjective.