

# Verbs and Verbals

The 4 basic forms of a verb are the

- infinitive to eat
- present participle eating
- past participle eaten
- past tense ate

A **verb** of a sentence/clause states an action being performed by the subject or its state of being.

A **verbal** is a form of a verb whose function may be as a

- noun
- adjective or
- adverb

Some **verbals** are the *present participle*, *past participle* or *infinitive* forms.

In general, participles as verbals do not occur with an auxiliary verb.

- the *present participle* of a verb has the "**-ing**" ending
- the *past participle* of a verb has the "**-ed**", "**-d**" or "**-t**" ending.

The *infinitive* form consists of "to + verb stem (simplest form)".

## Present Participle Form of a Verb

The **present participle** of a verb always ends in "**-ing**".

| <u>verb</u> | <u>present participle</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| run         | running                   |
| see         | seeing                    |
| walk        | walking                   |
| think       | thinking                  |
| be          | being                     |
| appear      | appearing                 |

Examples of auxiliary (helping) verbs used with the **present participle**.

Notice that "running" is part of the verb of the sentence.

I am running.

We are running.

She is running.

He was running.

They were running.

You had been running. We could have been running.

# Functions of Present Participle

When the **present participle** is **NOT** used with an auxiliary (helping) verb, its function can be as a

- noun
- adjective
- adverb

**Eg. Verb-Infinitive:** to run      **Verbal-Present Participle:** running

a. Running is my favorite exercise.

S | V \ pred. nominative

function: noun/subject

Runn<sup>ing</sup> | is \ my favorite exercise

b. He ate an apple running after the bus.

S | V | d.o.

He | ate | an apple  
\runn<sup>ing</sup> after the bus

adverbial function - modifies the verb "ate"

c. Running after the bus, he tripped on a rock.

adjectival function - modifies the pronoun "he"

\Runn<sup>ing</sup> after the bus  
he | tripped  
\on a rock

# Function of Past Participle

Two uses of the **past participle**:

- a. **Past perfect verb tense** (used with the auxiliary verb "have")

Eg. We had expected the guest speaker to dine with us.

- b. **Passive Verb** (used with auxiliary verb "be")

Eg. The speaker was expected to stay by the audience.

Verb: to expect

Agent: the audience

Active Form: The audience expected the speaker to stay.

The passive verb places the emphasis on its subject (not the agent).

Note that the sentence in *passive voice* below transitions the first part of the verse to the latter part.

Zechariah 9:10.

He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim                      active voice

And the horse from Jerusalem;

And the bow of war will be cut off.                      *passive voice*

And He will speak peace to the nations;                      active voice

And His dominion will be from sea to sea,                      active voice

And from the River to the ends of the earth.

- c. **Adjective**

Eg. The expected guest did not come.

Note: The simple past tense form of the verb is often identical with the past participle.

# Infinitive Form of a Verb

" \to + verb stem"

The infinitive can function as a subject, direct object, adjective, or adverb in a sentence.

| Function   |  |
|--|--|
| <u>subject</u>   | <p>To ride in the air balloon was exciting.</p> <p><u>To ride</u>   <u>was</u>   <u>exciting.</u></p> <p>\in the air balloon</p>   |
| <u>direct object</u><br>-answers<br>"What did he begin at noon?"                                 | <p>He began to eat at noon.</p> <p><u>He</u>   <u>began</u>   <u>to eat.</u></p> <p>\at noon</p>   |
| <u>adjective</u><br>-describes <i>which</i> ability.   | <p>She has the ability to teach others.</p> <p><u>She</u>   <u>has</u>   <u>the ability</u></p> <p>\to teach others</p>  |
| <u>adverb</u><br>-use "in order to";<br>expresses purpose and explains "why" the action is done. | <p>They spent their savings to (in order to) buy a house.</p> <p><u>They</u>   <u>spent</u>   <u>their savings</u></p> <p>\to buy   a house.</p> <p>\To buy   a house,</p> <p><u>they</u>   <u>spent</u>   <u>their savings.</u></p> |