

USING PARTICIPLES

A participle is a verb form that functions as an adjective. Used in a phrase, it may take objects, complements, and modifiers. Three forms of participles are common: present (ends in *-ing*), past (ends in *-ed* or, for irregular verbs, is the past participle form), and perfect (*having* + the past participle form). Participle phrases begin with one of these three forms and may be found any place in the sentence: beginning, middle, or end. Below are sentences that contain participle phrases.

The bellhop *carrying the largest suitcase* fell over the threshold. (Present)

Hurrying to finish his assignment before the bell rang, the student made many careless mistakes. (Present)

The old woman, *tired from carrying her shopping bags*, stopped to rest on the street corner. (Past)

Blown down during the storm, the uprooted tree lay across what was once Billy's room. (Past)

Having reserved a hotel room for the night, the traveler looked forward to a good night's sleep. (Perfect)

The football team celebrated with champagne, *having defeated their arch rivals*. (Perfect)

John does not have the time *required to finish that project*. (Past)

The campaign workers, *having already planned a victory celebration*, were disappointed by their candidate's loss. (Perfect)

Having just passed her physics final exam, Lori walked across campus, *singing a merry tune*. (Perfect/Present)