

Participial Phrases Additional Practice

Tips for Identifying Participial Phrases:

1. **Look for Verb Forms:** Participial phrases often begin with a verb in its participle form (present participle ending in -ing or past participle often ending in -ed, -en, or other irregular forms).
2. **Check for Modifiers:** Participial phrases can include modifiers (adjectives, adverbs) that provide more detail about the noun they modify.
3. **Identify the Noun:** Find the noun or pronoun that the participial phrase modifies. This noun is often placed immediately before the participial phrase.
4. **Assess the Context:** Read the entire sentence to understand how the participial phrase relates to the main clause. It may indicate timing, cause, or condition.
5. **Use Punctuation Cues:** Often, participial phrases are set off by commas, especially when they appear at the beginning of a sentence or when they provide non-essential information.
6. **Be Mindful of Misleading Forms:** Some phrases may look like participial phrases but function differently (e.g., gerunds). Ensure that the phrase modifies a noun rather than acting as a subject or object.
7. **Break Down Complex Sentences:** For longer sentences, break them into smaller parts to isolate the participial phrase and clarify its role in the sentence.
8. **Ask “What?”:** When you find a participial phrase, ask what noun it describes. This can help confirm that it is indeed a participial phrase.

Practice Exercises

Highlight the participles or participial phrases and then circle or underline the word each one modifies.

1. Running swiftly, the athlete crossed the finish line before anyone else.
2. The broken vase lay on the floor, shards scattered everywhere.
3. Determined to succeed, she studied late into the night for her final exam.
4. He walked into the room, smiling broadly, after hearing the good news.
5. Exhausted from the long hike, they decided to rest under a shady tree.
6. The shining stars illuminated the night sky, creating a beautiful view.
7. Excited by the surprise party, she couldn't stop grinning throughout the evening.
8. Bored with the lecture, many students began to doodle in their notebooks.
9. The barking dog chased after the mailman, creating quite a scene.
10. Fascinated by the experiment, the students watched closely as the chemicals reacted.
11. Excited by the championship win, the players celebrated on the field.

12. The cheering crowd erupted when the home team scored a touchdown.
13. Focused on the game, the quarterback ignored the distractions around him.
14. The injured player sat on the sidelines, hoping to return to the game soon.
15. Running down the sideline, the wide receiver caught the pass and sprinted to the end zone.
16. Prepared for the big match, the coach held an intense strategy session with the team.
17. The tired athletes finally took a break after an exhausting practice.
18. Hoping for a comeback, the fans remained optimistic until the last whistle.
19. The defensive line, blocking the opponents, successfully prevented the touchdown.
20. Celebrating their victory, the team gathered for a group photo with the trophy.