

Participle Detectives

Sort describing words made from verbs.

4.L.GC.1.44 "Grammar: Form and use participles. (Introduce)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

A present participle ends in -ing. It can describe a noun.

The glowing lantern lit the path.

PAST PARTICIPLE

A past participle often ends in -ed, -en, or another past form. It can describe a noun.

The bent spoon lay beside the plate.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle the category for each item, then for Part 2, choose two items and explain the participle ending and the noun it describes.

1. The barking dog woke us.

PRESENT

PAST

2. The cracked vase sat on the shelf.

PRESENT

PAST

3. Smiling Maya opened the door.

PRESENT

PAST

4. The spilled juice stained the rug.

PRESENT

PAST

5. We watched the rolling waves.

PRESENT

PAST

6. The frozen pond looked smooth.

PRESENT

PAST

7. The torn map was hard to read.

PRESENT

PAST

8. A shining star appeared.

PRESENT

PAST

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Write one sentence with a present participle and one sentence with a past participle. Underline each participle.

PRESENT

PAST

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with both a present participle and a past participle that describe different nouns.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The barking dog woke us.	PRESENT	Barking ends in -ing and describes dog.
2	The cracked vase sat on the shelf.	PAST	Cracked is a past participle that describes vase.
3	Smiling Maya opened the door.	PRESENT	Smiling ends in -ing and describes Maya.
4	The spilled juice stained the rug.	PAST	Spilled is a past participle that describes juice.
5	We watched the rolling waves.	PRESENT	Rolling ends in -ing and describes waves.
6	The frozen pond looked smooth.	PAST	Frozen is a past participle that describes pond.
7	The torn map was hard to read.	PAST	Torn is a past participle that describes map.
8	A shining star appeared.	PRESENT	Shining ends in -ing and describes star.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **PRESENT:** The laughing children raced home.
- **PAST:** The closed gate blocked the trail.

Challenge: The buzzing bee landed on the broken branch.

Accept other correct participles when they describe nouns. In Part 2, students should name the participle ending or form and the noun the participle describes.