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.

ANSWER KEY # Participle Detectives

GRADE 4 · 4.L.GC.1.44

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