

Participle adjectives

Meaning

Participle adjectives are adjectives made from verbs by adding '-ing' or '-ed'. They are used in the same way as regular adjectives, to describe people, places, and things.

Form

Many words have both an adjective form with '-ed' and '-ing', for example 'bored' and 'boring'. This can be confusing for learners. For example:

This film is very bored .	incorrect
This film is boring .	correct
I am interesting in science.	incorrect
I am interested in science.	correct

Adjectives ending in '-ed' usually describe emotions, how people feel. For example:

I was so **tired** after playing football all day.
She's very **confused** about English grammar.
They are **frightened** of spiders.

Adjectives ending in '-ing' usually describe the situation, person, or thing that causes the feeling or emotion. For example:

The training was really **tiring** for the boys.
English grammar is very **confusing** for me.
Spiders are very **frightening** for some people.

Here are some more common forms:

alarmed – alarming
annoyed – annoying
disappointed – disappointing
excited – exciting
surprised - surprising

worried – worrying
exhausted – exhausting
relaxed – relaxing
terrified – terrifying
satisfied - satisfying