Painting with Parts of Speech

Participles

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Compare and contrast the sentences below.

He crossed the street.

Rollerblading, he crossed the street.

He crossed the street, whistling.

He crossed the street, followed by a Great Dane.
To “paint” with a participle, tag an *ing* or *ed* verb onto a sentence.

**Participle:** an *ing* or *ed* verb added onto a sentence

**Example:**

*Squealing with delight*, the birthday boy ripped open his presents.
Sentence with no participles:
The toddler cried on the kitchen floor.

Sentence with two *ing* participles:
Kicking and screaming, the toddler cried on the kitchen floor.

Sentence with two *ing* participial phrases:
Kicking the white tiles, screaming for a cookie, the toddler cried on the kitchen floor.
Sentence with no participle:
Jeremy collapsed on the 30-yard line.

Sentence with an *ed* participle:
Jeremy collapsed on the 30-yard line, crushed.

Sentence with an *ed* participial phrase:
Jeremy collapsed on the 30-yard line, crushed beneath the linebacker’s massive frame.
Sentence with no participles:
Molly bowed before the crowd.

Sentence with one *ing* and one *ed* participle:
Surprised, Molly bowed before the crowd, smiling.

Sentence with one *ing* and one *ed* participial phrase:
Surprised by the thundering applause, Molly bowed before the crowd, smiling widely at her parents in the front row.
Participles can *begin* a sentence:
Chasing a tennis ball, the Golden Retriever barreled across the backyard.

Participles can *interrupt* a sentence:
The Golden Retriever, chasing a tennis ball, barreled across the backyard.

Participles can *end* a sentence:
The Golden Retriever barreled across the backyard, chasing a tennis ball.
Participial phrases are always set off by punctuation, usually commas:

The weatherman, pointing anxiously at a colorful radar map, predicted flash floods.
Examples of participles from literature:
Narrowing his beady eyes, he read the title of one of the books.

—Lemony Snicket, *The Bad Beginning*
Examples of participles from literature:

Then, wearing only my undershorts, and streaked head to toe with mud like one of those lost guys from the Amazon rainforest, I went in to break the news to Mom.

—Edward Bloor, Tangerine
Examples of participles from literature:
The shirt was silk paisley, unbuttoned halfway down his hairless chest.
—Rick Riordan, *The Lightning Thief*
Examples of participles from literature:

It was raining, **washing** all traces of the snow away in clear, icy ribbons down the side of the **walkway**.

—Stephenie Meyer, *Twilight*
Identify participles from literature:
Pedaling rapidly down the path, Jonas felt oddly proud to have joined those who took the pills.
—Lois Lowry, *The Giver*
Identify participles from literature:
Then, propping the hatchet in a crack in the rock wall, he had pulled the head of his spear against it, carving a thin piece off each time, until the thick end tapered down to a needle point.

—Gary Paulsen, *Hatchet*
Identify participles from literature:
We pushed open the door to the back room and found four or five little kids, about eight years old or younger, huddled in a corner.

—S.E. Hinton, *The Outsiders*
Identify participles from literature:

It slices above my right eyebrow, opening a gash that sends a gush running down my face, blinding my eye, filling my mouth with the sharp, metallic taste of my own blood.

—Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*
Arrange participles from literature:
Create a sentence with the sentence strips. Write the sentence, punctuating correctly, and underline and label the participial phrases.

in the rear
sat
dressed not in his usual two-piece suit
feeling ridiculous
Artemis
but in normal teenager clothing
Arrange participles from literature:
Create a sentence with the sentence strips. Write the sentence, punctuating correctly, and underline and label the participial phrases.

Artemis sat in the rear, feeling ridiculous, dressed not in his usual two-piece suit, but in normal teenager clothing.

—Eoin Colfer, Artemis Fowl: The Opal Deception
Imitate participles from literature:
Write a sentence about a different subject, imitating the structure of the model sentence. Underline and label the participial phrases.

The little bag was made of faded green material, gathered at the top with a black string.
—Jeanne DuPrau, *The City of Ember*
Combine with participles:
Combine the sentences below to make one sentence with a participial phrase. Underline and label the participial phrase.

Argon heaved a massive sigh.
+ 
Argon rested his hands on both knees.
=
Combine with participles:
Combine the sentences below to make one sentence with a participial phrase. Underline and label the participial phrase.

Argon heaved a massive sigh.
  +
Argon rested his hands on both knees.
  =
Argon heaved a massive sigh, **resting his hands on both knees**.

—Eoin Colfer, *Artemis Fowl: The Opal Deception*
Combine with participles:
Combine the sentences below to make one sentence with a participial phrase. Underline and label the participial phrase.

I hug the rocks.
  +
I move slowly in the direction of the blood.
  +
I search for him.
  =

=
**Combine with participles:**

Combine the sentences below to make one sentence with a participial phrase. Underline and label the participial phrase.

I hug the rocks.

+  

I move slowly in the direction of the blood.

+  

I search for him.

=  

**Hugging the rocks**, I move slowly in the direction of the blood, **searching for him**.

—Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*
Expand with participles:
Write the sentence below, filling in the blanks with participial phrases. Underline and label each participial phrase.

____________________, the river was a brute force,
__________________________________________________________.

—Christopher Paolini, *Eragon*
Expand with participles:
Write the sentence below, filling in the blanks with participial phrases. Underline and label each participial phrase.

_________________________, the river was a brute force, ________________________________.

—Christopher Paolini, *Eragon*

Gorged with hundreds of tiny streams, the river was a brute force, **battling against the rocks and boulders that barred its way.**

—Christopher Paolini, *Eragon*
Expand with participles:
Write the sentence below, filling in the blanks with participial phrases. Underline and label each participial phrase.

Now he was on the bridge, ________________,
___________________________.

―Lois Lowry, *The Giver*
Expand with participles:
Write the sentence below, filling in the blanks with participial phrases. Underline and label each participial phrase.

Now he was on the bridge, ________________,
______________________________.
—Lois Lowry, *The Giver*

Now he was on the bridge, hunched over on the bicycle, pedaling steadily.
—Lois Lowry, *The Giver*
Compose with participles:
In response to the following picture prompts, write your own sentences with participial phrases. Underline and label each participial phrase.
Revise for participial phrases:
In a piece of your own writing, find two places where you can add details and sentence variety with participial phrases. Mark your revisions on your most recent draft.