

Participial adjectives

Some very common adjectives in English are formed from verbs. This is confusing because the adjectives look exactly like the verb forms.

example: **bored, boring**

This can be really confusing because **bored** and **boring** have different meanings!

The meaning depends on

- who is creating the boredom—the “agent” of boredom—(a boring man) or
- who are the unhappy “receivers” of the boredom (some bored friends).

That’s it! Easy, right?

Rules for -ing and -ed adjectives

(participial adjectives)

Here are the verb forms:

He **is boring** his friends.

He **was boring** his friends.

He **has bored** his friends for years.

Adjectives formed from these verbs:

“active” (agent)

“passive” (receiver)

a **boring** man

some **bored** friends

NOTE: Some verbs have no “passive” sense because they cannot have objects:

“progressive”

melting snow

a **growing** boy

“completed”

melted snow

a **grown** boy

So, did you get that last part?

Snow melts. (no object)

So, the –ing adjective, the **present participle**, gives a meaning of something in progress:

The **melting** snow was gray and slushy.

The **past participle** as an adjective (melted, grown) gives the meaning of a completed action:

Her son was a **grown** man now.

I hope this wasn't a **boring** presentation. You're not **bored**, are you? ;-)