



Participial Adjectives (-ed/-ing): Basic -ed/-ing Adjectives: Feelings vs Causes

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- The movie was really _____. I almost fell asleep.
a) bored
b) bore
c) boredom
d) boring
- I'm _____ about the trip to Paris next week!
a) excited
b) excite
c) excitement
d) exciting
- The children were _____ by the magic show.
a) amaze
b) amazed
c) amazement
d) amazing
- This book is very _____. I can't stop reading it.
a) interests
b) interested
c) interest
d) interesting
- My little brother is really _____. He never stops talking and running around.
a) tire
b) tiredness
c) tiring
d) tired
- The test was very _____. I didn't understand the questions.
a) confuse
b) confused
c) confusing
d) confusion
- He can be quite _____ when he gets angry. Everyone stays away from him.
a) frighten
b) frightening
c) frightened
d) fright
- The hot bath was very _____. I almost fell asleep.
a) relaxing
b) relaxed
c) relax
d) relaxation
- I was really _____ when I failed the exam.
a) surprising
b) surprised
c) surprise
d) surprisingly
- The noise from the construction site is very _____.
a) annoy
b) annoyed
c) annoying
d) annoyance
- My grandfather is very _____. He always has the best stories to tell.
a) interested
b) interest
c) interestingly
d) interesting



Answers

1. d) boring
2. a) excited
3. b) amazed
4. d) interesting
5. c) tiring
6. c) confusing
7. b) frightening
8. a) relaxing
9. b) surprised
10. c) annoying
11. d) interesting
12. b) amazing
13. a) confused
14. d) tiring
15. c) exciting
16. b) frightened
17. d) amusing
18. c) thrilling
19. a) frightening
20. c) relaxed



Explanations

1. “boring” (d)

'Boring' is the -ing adjective that describes something which CAUSES boredom. The movie causes the feeling, so we use the -ing form. 'Bored' would describe how a person feels, not the movie itself.

2. “excited” (a)

'Excited' is the -ed adjective that describes how someone FEELS. 'I' am the person experiencing the emotion. 'Exciting' would describe the trip itself (the cause), not the person.

3. “amazed” (b)

'Amazed' describes how the children FELT — they experienced amazement. 'Amazing' would describe the magic show (the cause of the feeling), not the children.

4. “interesting” (d)

'Interesting' is the -ing adjective that describes something which CAUSES interest. The book causes interest in the reader. 'Interested' describes the person who feels interest, not the book.

5. “tiring” (c)

'Tiring' is the -ing adjective here because the brother is the CAUSE of tiredness in others — his non-stop energy wears people out. Even though the subject is a person, we use -ing when that person causes a feeling in other people.

6. “confusing” (c)

'Confusing' is the -ing adjective that describes something which CAUSES confusion. The test caused confusion in the student. 'Confused' would describe how the student felt.

7. “frightening” (b)

'Frightening' is the -ing adjective here because this person CAUSES fear in others when he is angry. Even though 'he' is a person, we use -ing because he is the source of the feeling, not the one experiencing it.

8. “relaxing” (a)

'Relaxing' is the -ing adjective that describes something which CAUSES relaxation. The bath caused a feeling of relaxation. 'Relaxed' describes how a person feels, not the bath.

9. “surprised” (b)

'Surprised' is the -ed adjective that describes how someone FEELS. 'I' experienced surprise. 'Surprising' would describe the event or news that caused the feeling.

10. “annoying” (c)

'Annoying' is the -ing adjective that describes something which CAUSES annoyance. The noise causes annoyance in people who hear it. 'Annoyed' would describe how those people feel.

11. “interesting” (d)

'Interesting' is the -ing adjective here because the grandfather CAUSES interest in other people — his stories make others want to listen. A person can be 'interesting' (causing interest) or 'interested' (feeling interest). Here, he is the source of the feeling.

12. “amazing” (b)

'Amazing' is the -ing adjective used before a noun (attributive position) to describe something that CAUSES amazement. The experience caused a feeling of wonder. 'Amazed' describes how a person feels.

13. “confused” (a)

'Confused' is the -ed adjective that describes how someone FEELS. The students experienced confusion.

'Confusing' describes the instructions (the cause of confusion).

14. “tiring” (d)

'Tiring' is the -ing adjective that describes something which CAUSES tiredness. The exercise is the cause. 'Tired' would describe how a person feels after doing the exercise.

15. “exciting” (c)

'Exciting' is the -ing adjective that describes something which CAUSES excitement. The ride is the source of excitement. 'Excited' describes the person who feels excitement.

16. “frightened” (b)

'Frightened' is the -ed adjective that describes how someone FEELS — she experiences fear. We say 'frightened of' to express what causes the fear. 'Frightening' describes the thing that causes fear.

17. “amusing” (d)

'Amusing' is the -ing adjective that describes something which CAUSES amusement. In the pattern 'find + object + adjective', the adjective describes the object (the TV show). The show causes laughter.

18. “thrilling” (c)

'Thrilling' is the -ing adjective here because she CAUSES excitement and thrill in the audience. Even though the subject is a person, we use -ing because she is the source of the thrill, not the one experiencing it.

19. “frightening” (a)

'Frightening' is the -ing adjective that describes something which CAUSES fear. The haunted house is the source of fear. 'Frightened' describes how a person feels.

20. “relaxed” (c)

'Relaxed' is the -ed adjective that describes how someone FEELS. She experienced relaxation. 'Relaxing' describes the bath (the cause of the relaxed feeling).