



Participial Adjectives (-ed/-ing): Tricky Participial Adjectives: People, Things & Extended Pairs

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- The documentary about climate change was really ____.
a) depression
b) depressed
c) depress
d) depressing
- She was ____ when she tripped and fell in front of everyone.
a) embarrassed
b) embarrassment
c) embarrass
d) embarrassing
- The marathon was _____. I could barely walk afterwards.
a) exhaustion
b) exhaust
c) exhausted
d) exhausting
- He is a very ____ speaker. Everyone enjoys his presentations.
a) entertainment
b) entertaining
c) entertained
d) entertain
- We were ____ by the ancient ruins in Rome.
a) fascination
b) fascinate
c) fascinating
d) fascinated
- The exam results were very _____. I didn't pass.
a) disappoint
b) disappointing
c) disappointed
d) disappointment
- I felt completely ____ by all the work I had to do.
a) overwhelming
b) overwhelm
c) overwhelmed
d) overwhelmingly
- My neighbour is really _____. He plays loud music at midnight.
a) annoying
b) annoyed
c) annoy
d) annoyance
- Are you ____ with your test results?
a) satisfaction
b) satisfied
c) satisfy
d) satisfying
- We watched a ____ documentary about ocean pollution.
a) shock
b) shockingly
c) shocking
d) shocked



Answers

1. d) depressing
2. a) embarrassed
3. d) exhausting
4. b) entertaining
5. d) fascinated
6. b) disappointing
7. c) overwhelmed
8. a) annoying
9. b) satisfied
10. c) shocking
11. c) excited
12. a) boring
13. d) shocked
14. b) exhausted
15. c) embarrassing
16. a) charming
17. a) fascinated
18. b) surprising
19. c) disappointed
20. d) fascinating



Explanations

1. “depressing” (d)

'Depressing' is the -ing adjective describing the documentary — it CAUSES a feeling of sadness or depression in the viewer. 'Depressed' would describe how a person feels.

2. “embarrassed” (a)

'Embarrassed' is the -ed adjective describing how she FELT — she experienced embarrassment. 'Embarrassing' would describe the situation that caused the feeling.

3. “exhausting” (d)

'Exhausting' is the -ing adjective describing the marathon — it CAUSED exhaustion. The marathon is the source of the tiredness. 'Exhausted' describes how the runner felt.

4. “entertaining” (b)

When we use -ing adjectives with PEOPLE, it means that person CAUSES the feeling in others. 'An entertaining speaker' = a speaker who causes entertainment/enjoyment. This is different from 'an entertained speaker', which would mean the speaker himself feels entertained.

5. “fascinated” (d)

'Fascinated' is the -ed adjective describing how 'we' FELT — we experienced fascination. 'Fascinating' would describe the ruins (the cause of the feeling).

6. “disappointing” (b)

'Disappointing' is the -ing adjective describing the results — they CAUSED disappointment. Results are things, not people, so they cannot feel disappointed. 'Disappointed' describes how the person felt.

7. “overwhelmed” (c)

'Overwhelmed' is the -ed adjective describing how 'I' FELT — I experienced a feeling of being overwhelmed. 'Overwhelming' would describe the amount of work (the cause).

8. “annoying” (a)

When -ing adjectives describe PEOPLE, they mean that person CAUSES the feeling in others. 'My neighbour is annoying' = he causes annoyance. The context confirms this: he plays loud music. 'Annoyed' would mean he himself feels annoyance.

9. “satisfied” (b)

'Satisfied' is the -ed adjective describing how someone FEELS. We say 'satisfied with' to express what we are happy about. 'Satisfying' describes the thing that causes satisfaction.

10. “shocking” (c)

'Shocking' is the -ing adjective used before a noun (attributive position) to describe something that CAUSES shock. 'A shocking documentary' = a documentary that shocks viewers. 'A shocked documentary' would not make sense because documentaries cannot feel shock.

11. “excited” (c)

'Excited' is the -ed adjective used before a noun (attributive position) to describe how someone FEELS. 'The excited children' = the children who feel excitement. 'Exciting children' would mean the children cause excitement in others, which doesn't match the context.

12. “boring” (a)

When -ing adjectives describe PEOPLE, they mean that person CAUSES the feeling in others. 'She is boring' = she causes boredom in the people around her. The context confirms this: she talks about herself non-stop. 'Bored' would mean she feels boredom.

13. “shocked” (d)

'Shocked' is the -ed adjective describing how 'I' FELT — I experienced shock. 'Shocking' would describe the news (the cause of the feeling).

14. “exhausted” (b)

'Exhausted' is the -ed adjective used before a noun (attributive position) to describe how people FEEL. 'The exhausted tourists' = the tourists who feel exhaustion. 'Exhausting tourists' would mean the tourists cause exhaustion in others.

15. “embarrassing” (c)

'Embarrassing' is the -ing adjective describing the behaviour — it CAUSED embarrassment in others. 'Embarrassed' describes how a person feels, and behaviour cannot feel embarrassed.

16. “charming” (a)

When -ing adjectives describe PEOPLE, they mean that person CAUSES the feeling. 'A charming woman' = a woman who charms others and makes them feel good. 'Charmed' would mean she herself feels charmed by something.

17. “fascinated” (a)

'Fascinated' is the -ed adjective used before a noun (attributive position) to describe how people FEEL. 'The fascinated students' = the students who felt fascination. 'Fascinating students' would mean the students cause fascination in others.

18. “surprising” (b)

'Surprising' describes the ending — it CAUSED surprise. In the pattern 'find + object + adjective', the adjective describes the object. The ending cannot feel surprised, so 'surprised' would be incorrect here.

19. “disappointed” (c)

'Disappointed' is the -ed adjective describing how 'we' FELT. We experienced disappointment. 'Disappointing' would describe the match result (the cause).

20. “fascinating” (d)

When -ing adjectives describe PEOPLE, they mean that person CAUSES the feeling. 'Professor Smith is fascinating' = he causes fascination in his students. The context ('His classes are never dull') confirms he is the source of interest. 'Fascinated' would mean he himself feels fascination.