



Participles (Past & Present Participle): Recognizing Present & Past Participle Verb Forms

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- The window was ___ by the storm last night.
a) broken
b) breaking
c) broke
d) break
- I can hear the birds ___ outside my window.
a) sung
b) sang
c) to sing
d) singing
- The ___ child was taken to the hospital.
a) injuring
b) injure
c) injured
d) injuries
- Look at the ___ water in the pot. It's ready for the pasta.
a) boiled
b) boiling
c) boil
d) boils
- Have you ever ___ sushi before?
a) eaten
b) eating
c) ate
d) eat
- The police found the ___ car near the river.
a) stealing
b) stole
c) steal
d) stolen
- We watched the sun ___ behind the mountains.
a) to set
b) sat
c) setting
d) settled
- The letter was ___ in French, so I couldn't read it.
a) writing
b) written
c) wrote
d) write
- There is a ___ smell coming from the kitchen.
a) burning
b) burned
c) burn
d) burns
- She has never ___ a horse in her life.
a) riding
b) rode
c) ride
d) ridden
- The ___ leaves covered the ground in the park.
a) falling
b) fell
c) fallen
d) fall



Answers

1. a) broken
2. d) singing
3. c) injured
4. b) boiling
5. a) eaten
6. d) stolen
7. c) setting
8. b) written
9. a) burning
10. d) ridden
11. c) fallen
12. b) rising
13. a) made
14. d) standing
15. c) finished
16. b) running
17. a) sent
18. d) broken
19. c) playing
20. b) sold



Explanations

1. “broken” (a)

'Broken' is the past participle of 'break'. After 'was', we need a past participle to form the passive voice. 'Broke' is the past simple form, not the past participle.

2. “singing” (d)

'Singing' is the present participle (-ing form) of 'sing'. After perception verbs like 'hear', we use the present participle to describe an action in progress. The to-infinitive ('to sing') cannot be used after perception verbs.

3. “injured” (c)

'Injured' is a past participle used as an adjective before a noun. It describes the child's state (the child was injured). 'Injuring' would mean the child is causing injury to others.

4. “boiling” (b)

'Boiling' is a present participle used as an adjective. It describes water that is actively boiling right now. 'Boiled' would mean water that was boiled in the past and has already cooled.

5. “eaten” (a)

'Eaten' is the past participle of 'eat'. In the present perfect tense (have + past participle), we need the past participle form. 'Ate' is the past simple, not the past participle.

6. “stolen” (d)

'Stolen' is the past participle of 'steal', used here as an adjective to describe the car. The car was stolen (passive meaning). 'Stealing' would mean the car is doing the stealing.

7. “setting” (c)

'Setting' is the present participle of 'set'. After 'watched' (a perception verb), we use the present participle to describe the action we observed happening. The to-infinitive cannot be used after perception verbs. 'Setted' is not a word — 'set' is irregular (set/set/set).

8. “written” (b)

'Written' is the past participle of 'write'. After 'was', we need a past participle for the passive voice. 'Wrote' is past simple, not past participle.

9. “burning” (a)

'Burning' is a present participle used as an adjective. A 'burning smell' means the smell is currently active and ongoing — something is burning right now. 'Burned' as an adjective would describe something that has already finished burning.

10. “ridden” (d)

'Ridden' is the past participle of 'ride'. In the present perfect (has + past participle), we need the past participle. 'Rode' is the past simple form.

11. “fallen” (c)

'Fallen' is the past participle of 'fall', used as an adjective. 'Fallen leaves' are leaves that have already fallen to the ground (completed action). 'Falling leaves' would mean leaves still in the process of falling.

12. “rising” (b)

'Rising' is the present participle of 'rise'. After 'see' (a perception verb), we use the present participle to describe an action in progress. The to-infinitive ('to rise') cannot be used after perception verbs.

13. “made” (a)

'Made' is the past participle of 'make'. After 'was', we need a past participle for the passive voice. The cake was made (by someone) is a passive construction.

14. “standing” (d)

'Standing' is a present participle used as a reduced relative clause: 'the man who is standing by the door'. The present participle shows an action happening right now.

15. “finished” (c)

'Finished' is the past participle of 'finish'. After 'must be', we need a past participle to form the passive voice. The homework must be finished (by someone).

16. “running” (b)

'Running' is the present participle of 'run'. After 'noticed' (a perception verb), we use the present participle to describe what we observed happening. The to-infinitive ('to run') cannot be used after perception verbs.

17. “sent” (a)

'Sent' is the past participle of 'send' (an irregular verb — send/sent/sent). After 'was', we need a past participle for the passive voice. 'Sended' is not a word.

18. “broken” (d)

'Broken' is a past participle used as an adjective before a noun. 'Broken glass' means glass that has been broken (result of a completed action).

19. “playing” (c)

'Playing' is the present participle of 'play'. After 'were', the present participle forms the past continuous tense (were playing), describing an action in progress at a past moment.

20. “sold” (b)

'Sold' is the past participle of 'sell' (sell/sold/sold). After 'have been', we need a past participle for the present perfect passive. 'Selled' is not a word — 'sell' is an irregular verb.