



# Participles (Past & Present Participle): Present vs Past Participle: Active & Passive Meaning

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- The movie was really \_\_\_\_\_. I almost fell asleep.  
a) bored  
b) bore  
c) boring  
d) bores
- The \_\_\_\_\_ passengers waited for the delayed flight.  
a) frustrated  
b) frustrating  
c) frustrate  
d) frustrates
- The dog \_\_\_\_\_ in the yard belongs to my neighbour.  
a) slept  
b) sleep  
c) sleeps  
d) sleeping
- The report \_\_\_\_\_ by the manager contained several errors.  
a) preparing  
b) prepared  
c) prepare  
d) prepares
- It was an \_\_\_\_\_ experience — I want to do it again!  
a) excited  
b) excite  
c) exciting  
d) excites
- The boy \_\_\_\_\_ on the bench is waiting for his mother.  
a) sitting  
b) sat  
c) sit  
d) seats
- The window \_\_\_\_\_ by the ball needs to be replaced.  
a) breaking  
b) broke  
c) break  
d) broken
- I was \_\_\_\_\_ to hear about your promotion. Congratulations!  
a) pleasing  
b) pleased  
c) please  
d) pleases
- The road \_\_\_\_\_ to the village is very narrow.  
a) led  
b) lead  
c) leading  
d) leads
- The goods \_\_\_\_\_ from China arrived yesterday.  
a) imported  
b) importing  
c) import  
d) imports
- Her speech was very \_\_\_\_\_. Everyone stood up and clapped.  
a) inspired  
b) inspire  
c) inspires  
d) inspiring





## Answers

1. c) boring
2. a) frustrated
3. d) sleeping
4. b) prepared
5. c) exciting
6. a) sitting
7. d) broken
8. b) pleased
9. c) leading
10. a) imported
11. d) inspiring
12. b) studying
13. c) delivered
14. a) amazed
15. d) wearing
16. b) translated
17. c) surprising
18. a) teaching
19. d) stolen
20. b) exhausted



# Explanations

## 1. “boring” (c)

We use the present participle 'boring' to describe the thing that causes the feeling. The movie causes boredom, so the movie is 'boring'. 'Bored' describes the person who feels the emotion.

## 2. “frustrated” (a)

We use the past participle 'frustrated' to describe the people who experience the feeling. The passengers feel frustration. 'Frustrating' would describe the thing that causes frustration (e.g., a frustrating delay).

## 3. “sleeping” (d)

'Sleeping' is the present participle used as a reduced relative clause: 'the dog that is sleeping'. The dog is performing the action (active meaning), so we use the present participle.

## 4. “prepared” (b)

'Prepared' is the past participle used as a reduced relative clause: 'the report that was prepared by the manager'. The report received the action (passive meaning), so we use the past participle.

## 5. “exciting” (c)

We use the present participle 'exciting' to describe the experience that causes excitement. 'Excited' would describe how a person feels.

## 6. “sitting” (a)

'Sitting' is the present participle (active meaning): 'the boy who is sitting'. The boy is doing the action of sitting, so we use the present participle.

## 7. “broken” (d)

'Broken' is the past participle (passive meaning): 'the window that was broken by the ball'. The window received the action of being broken, so we use the past participle.

## 8. “pleased” (b)

We use the past participle 'pleased' to describe the person who experiences the feeling. I feel pleasure. 'Pleasing' would describe the thing that gives pleasure.

## 9. “leading” (c)

'Leading' is the present participle (active meaning): 'the road that leads to the village'. The road performs the action of leading somewhere, so we use the present participle.

## 10. “imported” (a)

'Imported' is the past participle (passive meaning): 'the goods that were imported from China'. The goods received the action of being imported, so we use the past participle.

## 11. “inspiring” (d)

We use the present participle 'inspiring' to describe the speech that causes inspiration. The speech inspires people. 'Inspired' would describe the people who felt inspired.

## 12. “studying” (b)

'Studying' is the present participle (active meaning): 'the students who were studying for the exam'. The students perform the action, so we use the present participle.

## 13. “delivered” (c)

'Delivered' is the past participle (passive meaning): 'the packages that were delivered to the wrong address'. The packages received the action, so we use the past participle.

**14. “amazed” (a)**

We use the past participle 'amazed' to describe the people who experience the feeling. We felt amazement. 'Amazing' would describe the tricks themselves (the cause).

**15. “wearing” (d)**

'Wearing' is the present participle (active meaning): 'the woman who is wearing the red dress'. The woman performs the action, so we use the present participle.

**16. “translated” (b)**

'Translated' is the past participle (passive meaning): 'the book that was translated into twenty languages'. The book received the action of being translated.

**17. “surprising” (c)**

We use the present participle 'surprising' to describe the results that cause surprise. 'Surprised' would describe the people who feel surprise.

**18. “teaching” (a)**

'Teaching' is the present participle (active meaning): 'the teacher who is teaching our class'. The teacher performs the action, so we use the present participle.

**19. “stolen” (d)**

'Stolen' is the past participle (passive meaning): 'the money that was stolen in the robbery'. The money received the action of being stolen.

**20. “exhausted” (b)**

We use the past participle 'exhausted' to describe how a person feels. I experienced exhaustion. 'Exhausting' would describe the marathon itself (the cause of tiredness).