



Participles (Past & Present Participle): Participles After Perception Verbs & as Modifiers

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- I saw the children ____ in the park when I walked by.
a) played
b) plays
c) to play
d) playing
- She heard her name ____ over the loudspeaker.
a) called
b) calling
c) to call
d) calls
- We could feel the ground ____ during the earthquake.
a) shook
b) to shake
c) shaking
d) shaken
- ____ food is usually more expensive than fresh ingredients.
a) Freezing
b) Frozen
c) Freeze
d) Froze
- I watched the cat ____ slowly towards the bird.
a) creeping
b) crept
c) creeps
d) to creep
- ____ water is safer to drink than tap water in some countries.
a) Bottling
b) Bottle
c) Bottles
d) Bottled
- We noticed several birds ____ in circles above the field.
a) flown
b) flew
c) flying
d) to fly
- The ____ news spread quickly through the town.
a) shocked
b) shocking
c) shock
d) shocks
- She felt tears ____ down her cheeks during the sad movie.
a) rolling
b) rolled
c) to roll
d) rolls
- Please hand me the ____ envelope on the desk.
a) sealing
b) seal
c) seals
d) sealed
- I could hear someone ____ the piano in the next room.
a) played
b) to play
c) playing
d) plays



Answers

1. d) playing
2. a) called
3. c) shaking
4. b) Frozen
5. a) creeping
6. d) Bottled
7. c) flying
8. b) shocking
9. a) rolling
10. d) sealed
11. c) playing
12. b) emerging
13. a) running
14. d) confusing
15. c) hiding
16. b) damaged
17. a) vibrating
18. d) Confused
19. c) spreading
20. b) drowning



Explanations

1. “playing” (d)

After the perception verb 'saw' + object, we use the present participle (-ing) to describe an action in progress. 'I saw them playing' means I saw them in the middle of playing. The to-infinitive ('to play') cannot be used after perception verbs.

2. “called” (a)

After 'heard' + object, we use the past participle 'called' because 'her name' receives the action — her name was called (passive meaning). 'Calling' would mean her name is doing the calling, which doesn't make sense.

3. “shaking” (c)

After 'feel' + object, we use the present participle 'shaking' to describe an action in progress. The ground was actively shaking (active meaning). The to-infinitive cannot be used after perception verbs.

4. “Frozen” (b)

'Frozen' is a past participle used as an adjective before a noun. 'Frozen food' means food that has been frozen (it received the action). 'Freezing' as an adjective means 'extremely cold' (e.g., freezing weather), not food that has been processed.

5. “creeping” (a)

After 'watched' + object, we use the present participle 'creeping' to describe an ongoing action we observed. The cat was in the middle of creeping. The to-infinitive cannot be used after perception verbs.

6. “Bottled” (d)

'Bottled' is a past participle used as an adjective. 'Bottled water' means water that has been put into bottles (passive meaning). 'Bottling' would refer to the process of putting water into bottles.

7. “flying” (c)

After 'noticed' + object, we use the present participle 'flying' to describe the action in progress. The birds were in the middle of flying (active meaning). The to-infinitive cannot be used after perception verbs.

8. “shocking” (b)

'Shocking' is a present participle used as an adjective. It describes the news that causes shock. 'Shocked' would describe people who feel shock, not the news itself.

9. “rolling” (a)

After 'felt' + object, we use the present participle 'rolling' to describe an action in progress. The tears were actively rolling (active meaning). The to-infinitive cannot be used after perception verbs.

10. “sealed” (d)

'Sealed' is a past participle used as an adjective. 'Sealed envelope' means an envelope that has been sealed (it received the action). 'Sealing' would mean the envelope is in the process of sealing something.

11. “playing” (c)

After 'hear' + object, we use the present participle 'playing' to describe an ongoing action. Someone was in the middle of playing the piano. The to-infinitive cannot be used after perception verbs.

12. “emerging” (b)

'Emerging' is a present participle used as an adjective. 'Emerging technology' means technology that is currently emerging (active, ongoing process). 'Emerged' would mean it has already fully appeared.

13. “running” (a)

After 'see' + object, we use the present participle 'running' to describe an action in progress. The to-infinitive ('to run') cannot be used after perception verbs.

14. “confusing” (d)

'Confusing' is a present participle used as an adjective. The instructions cause confusion, so they are 'confusing'. 'Confused' would describe a person who feels confusion.

15. “hiding” (c)

'Hiding' is the present participle forming the past continuous tense (was hiding). The dog was actively hiding under the bridge (active meaning). 'Hid' is past simple and doesn't follow 'was'. The to-infinitive ('to hide') doesn't fit after 'was' in this context.

16. “damaged” (b)

'Damaged' is a past participle used as an adjective. 'Damaged pipes' means pipes that have been damaged (passive meaning — something damaged them). 'Damaging' would mean the pipes are causing damage.

17. “vibrating” (a)

After 'felt' + object, we use the present participle 'vibrating' to describe an action in progress. The floor was actively vibrating (active meaning). The to-infinitive cannot be used after perception verbs.

18. “Confused” (d)

'Confused' is a past participle describing the student's state. The student experienced confusion (the student was confused by the question). 'Confusing' would describe something that causes confusion.

19. “spreading” (c)

After 'noticed' + object, we use the present participle 'spreading' to describe an action in progress. The crack was actively spreading (active meaning). The to-infinitive cannot be used after perception verbs. 'Spreaded' is not a word — 'spread' is irregular (spread/spread/spread).

20. “drowning” (b)

'Drowning' is a present participle used as an adjective. A 'drowning swimmer' is someone who is in the process of drowning (active, ongoing). 'Drowned' would mean the swimmer had already drowned and died, so 'rescued' would not apply.