

Let us study the following sentences:

Hearing the noise, the girl woke up.

The word hearing qualifies the noun 'girl' as an Adjective does. It is formed from the Verb Adjective, and is called a Participle. It may be called a Verbal Adjective. A participle is that form of the verb which partakes of the nature both of a verb and of an Adjective.

It must be noted that phrase 'hearing the noise' which is introduced by a participle, is known as participle phrase. According to its use here, it is an Adjective phrase.

Study the following examples regarding Participle:

We met a boy *carrying* a basket of flowers.

The child, *thinking* all was safe, attempted to cross the road.

He rushed into the field, and foremost *fighting* well.

In the above are all examples of what is usually called the Present Participle, which ends in *-ing* and represents an action as going on or incomplete.

Besides the Present Participle, we can verb another Participle called its Past Particle, which represents a completed action or state of the thing being talked about. For instance;

Deceived by her friends, she lost all hope.

Time *misspent* is time lost.

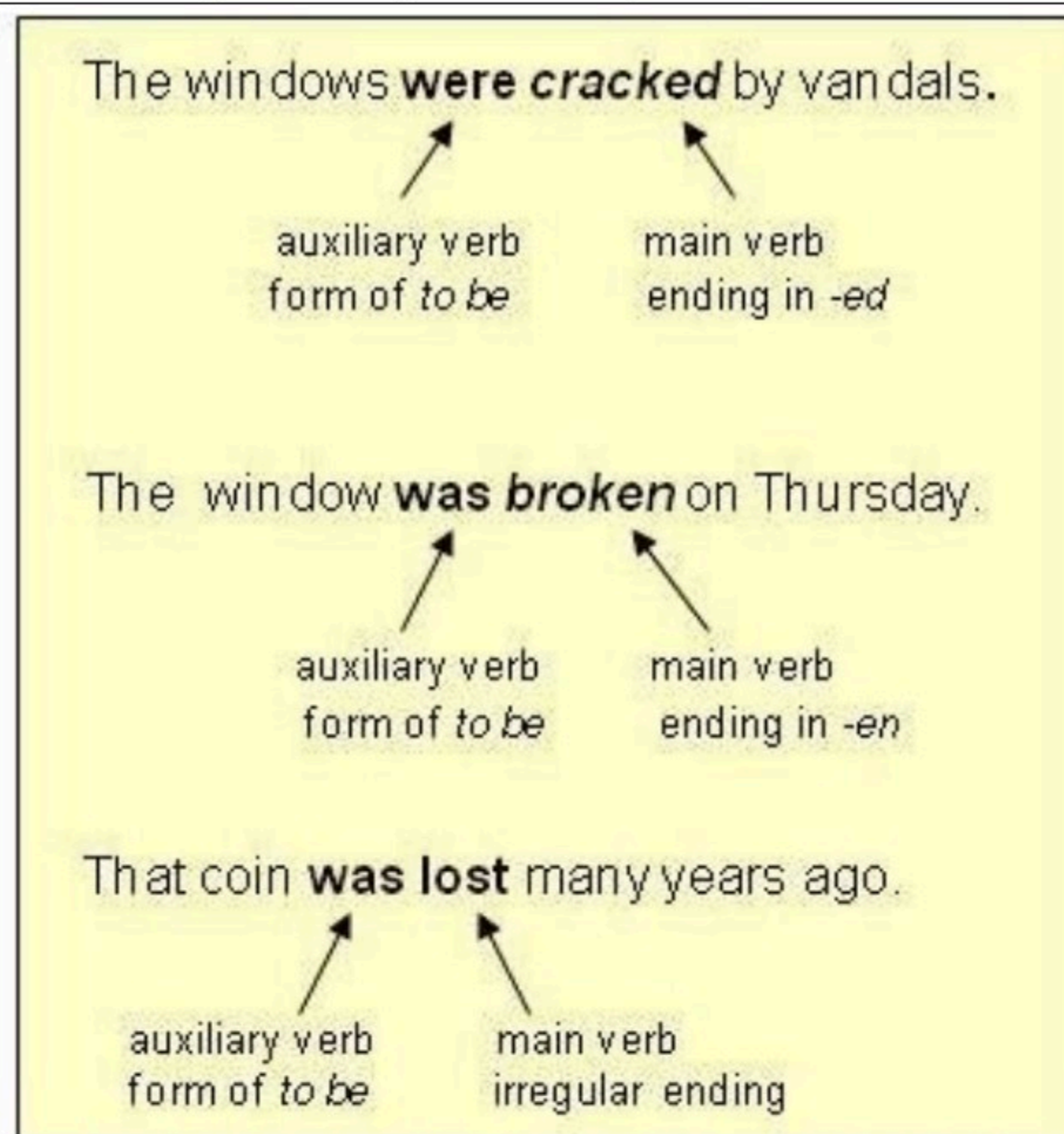
It must be noticed here, that the Past Participle usually ends with *-ed*, *-d*, *-t*, *-en*, or *-n*.

Apart from these two simple participles, the Present and the Past, we have a Perfect Participle which represents an action completed in some time in past. Such as;

Having rested, we continued our journey.

In the following examples the Participles are used as simple qualifying adjectives in front of a noun, therefore this usage terms them as Participle Adjectives.

A *rolling* stone gathers no mass.



THE PARTICIPLES

A *lying* witness ought to be punished.

Therefore, Participles can be summarized as following:

1. A participle is a verbal Adjectives.

2. Like a Verb it may govern a noun or pronoun. Such as;

Hearing the noise, the girl woke up. (Here the noun 'noise' is governed by the participle 'hearing')

3. Like a Verb it may be modified by an adverb. Such as;

Loudly *knocking* at the gate, she demanded admission. (Here the participle 'knocking' is modified by the adverb 'loudly')

4. Like an adjective the participle may qualify a noun or pronoun. Such as;

Having rested, the women continued their journey.

5. Like an Adjective it may be compared. Such as;

Education is the most *pressing* need of our time. (Here the participle 'pressing' is compared by prefixing 'most')

Use of Participle:

The use of present participle forms Continuous tenses (active voice) with tenses of the verb. Such as;

- I am loving.
- I was loving.
- I shall be loving.

The perfect tenses in active voice are formed from the past participle with tenses of the verb 'have'. Such as;

- I have loved.
- I had loved.
- I shall have loved.

The passive voice is formed from the Past participle with tenses of the verb be. Such as;

- I am loved.
- I was loved.
- I shall be loved.

We have so far seen that Participles qualify nouns or pronouns. They may be used in following ways -

1. Participles used attributively. For instance;

A *lost* opportunity never returns.

2. Participles used predicatively. Consider the following instance;

The man seems worried. (Modifying the subject)

3. Participles used absolutely with a noun or pronoun going before it. For example;

The wind *being favorable*, they embarked on the journey.

God *willing*, we shall have another great monsoon season.


StudyLab
GET EVERYTHING FREE