

Participles as adjectives

You probably know two types of participles

1. the **present participle**, which is formed using the verb + -ing, e.g. *interesting*
 2. the **past participle**, which is formed using the verb + -ed (or the third verb form with irregular verbs), e.g. *interested*
- You meet the present participle in progressive forms: *I am **watching** TV*
 - The past participle is part of present perfect forms: *I have **watched** a lot of TV in my life*

Participles as adjectives

Participles can also be used as adjectives. Any verb can be turned into an adjective when you use it to form one of the two participle forms.

Present participles as adjectives

Example	Explanation
I saw an boring movie yesterday.	verb: to bore [langweilen] → present participle as adjective: boring
Helen told me about a fascinating book this morning.	verb: to fascinate [faszinieren] → present participle as adjective: fascinating

The present participle as an adjective has an **active** meaning (the movie bores me, the book fascinates me).

The *object of the participle* (Here: "movie", "book") is the cause [Ursache] or the giver of a feeling: The movie gives me the feeling of boredom [Langeweile].

Past participles as adjectives

Example	Explanation
During the movie I got very bored [gelangweilt].	verb: to bore → past participle as adjective: bored
When I read the book myself, I was also fascinated	verb: to fascinate → past participle as adjective: fascinated

The past participle as an adjective has an **passive** meaning (I was bored by the movie, I was fascinated by the book).

The object of the participle (here: "I" in both sentences) is the result [Ergebnis] or the receiver [Empfänger] of a feeling: I get the feeling of boredom [Langeweile] from the movie.

Videos on the topic



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