

## Identifying Words Modified by Participial Phrases

**Participial phrases** are groups of words that describe, or “modify,” **nouns** and **verbs**.

The **words being modified** by a **participial phrase** typically fall directly before or after the phrase itself.

Kyle walked up to his friend sitting on the ground.

Modified Noun                      Participial Phrase

Jameson picked at the gum stuck to the bottom of his shoe.

Modified Noun                      Participial Phrase

Craving another popsicle, Carlos waited for the ice cream truck.

Participial Phrase                      Modified Noun



## Sentence Fragments

**Rule:** All sentences need to contain a subject, verb, and complete thought.

### Sentence Fragment Error:

Dave sprawled out on the floor

Independent Clause

•  
period

Gazing at the tiled pattern on the ceiling.

X

Sentence Fragment  
(The sentence has no subject)

### Solution:

Dave sprawled out on the floor

Independent Clause

•  
comma

gazing at a tiled pattern on the ceiling.



Dependent Clause,  
(linking this to an independent clause  
with a comma makes this correct)

What word(s) does the **bold participial phrase** describe?

**Eating with her hands behind her back**, Laila finished the pie in record time.

Eating with her hands behind her back, **Laila** finished the pie in record time.

At the gym, Mason decided to join the yoga class **practicing in the back room**.

At the gym, Mason decided to join **the yoga class** practicing in the back room.

Sean Gray, **staring into the Magic 8-Ball**, hopes to learn about his further.

**Sean Gray**, staring into the Magic 8-Ball, hopes to learn about his further.

What words make up the **participial phrase**?

From his tree house, Vincent Weaver could hear the gophers digging through his tomato garden.

From his tree house, Vincent Weaver could hear the gophers **digging through his tomato garden**.

At the party, Ruth Bader Ginsberg found her puppy covered in confetti.

At the party, Ruth Bader Ginsberg found her puppy **covered in confetti**.

## Fix any punctuation in the sentences below

Annabelle Prince did forty cartwheels in a row at lunch.  
Breaking the school's record.

Annabelle Prince did forty cartwheels in a row at lunch,  
breaking the school's record.

Jennifer Aniston was at the mall this afternoon, buying  
new toe socks for her cousins.

Correct

Matthew Page talked to the class of third graders about  
prejudice. Choosing his words very carefully.

Matthew Page talked to the class of third graders about  
prejudice, choosing his words very carefully.