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Grammar – Participles

How to Use Past and Present Participles

Study the table below to find out how we use **past participles** (3rd form) and **present participles** (ing form). Close your eyes and put your finger on a letter. Think of a verb that begins with that letter, say / write both participles, then put your finger on a number and say / write a sentence based on the information below. For example: G 8 = 'I've been getting some groceries from the shop.'

Past Participles:		Present Participles:	
1. In the 3 perfect simple tenses	Past Perfect I had eaten before I left. Present Perfect I have already eaten . Future Perfect I will have eaten by 2pm.	8. In the 6 continuous tenses	Past Continuous I was eating lunch at 1pm. Past Perfect Continuous I had been eating before I left. Present Continuous I'm eating at the moment.. Present Perfect Continuous I have been eating all day. Future Continuous I'll be eating at 6pm tomorrow. Future Perfect Continuous I will have been eating by 2pm.
2. In 3 rd conditional (both clauses)	If I'd bought some bread yesterday, you would have eaten it.		
3. In mixed conditionals	2nd to 3rd If I were going to a party, I would have bought some bread. 3rd to 2nd If I'd bought some bread yesterday, I could eat it now.	9. With modal verbs	modal perfect continuous (past): could, would, should, might + have + been + present participle He should have been eating dinner. modal continuous (present/future): modal verb + be + present participle He should be eating dinner.
4. With modal perfect	past: could, would, should, might + have + past participle I should've bought bread earlier. present & future: will, can, must, may, shall + have + past participle He can't have bought the bread.	10. With ellipsis – when an inessential part of the sentence is missing	two actions together I watched her (as she was) eating her lunch. two actions at the same time I did my homework while (I was) eating my lunch. relative clauses The people (who were) eating turned round and looked at me.
5. With passive voice	be / get + past participle All the bread has been eaten .		
6. To begin a sentence (for emphasis)	Bought to celebrate her 18 th birthday, Anne still had the beautiful gold earrings.	11. To begin a sentence (for emphasis)	Eating all the bread was a really naughty thing to do!
7. As adjectives, modifying nouns and pronouns	sliced bread (not 'bread which has been sliced'); also: broken window, printed page, damaged machine, dried fruit, forgotten promise	12. As adjectives, modifying nouns and pronouns	running machine (not 'machine for running'); also: walking frame, rocking chair, wishing well, annoying matter, etc.

