USING PARTICIPLES

A participle is a verb form that functions as an adjective. Used in a phrase, it may take objects, complements, and modifiers. Three forms of participles are common: present (ends in -ing), past (ends in -ed or, for irregular verbs, is the past participle form), and perfect (having + the past participle form). Participle phrases begin with one of these three forms and may be found any place in the sentence: beginning, middle, or end. Below are sentences that contain participle phrases.

The bellhop carrying the largest suitcase fell over the threshold. (Present)

_Hurrying to finish his assignment before the bell rang_, the student made many careless mistakes. (Present)

The old woman, tired from carrying her shopping bags, stopped to rest on the street corner. (Past)

_Blown down during the storm_, the uprooted tree lay across what was once Billy’s room. (Past)

_Having reserved a hotel room for the night_, the traveler looked forward to a good night’s sleep. (Perfect)

The football team celebrated with champagne, _having defeated their arch rivals_. (Perfect)

John does not have the time _required to finish that project_. (Past)

The campaign workers, _having already planned a victory celebration_, were disappointed by their candidate’s loss. (Perfect)

_Having just passed her physics final exam_, Lori walked across campus, _singing a merry tune_. (Perfect/Present)