

## Participial Phrases

### Participial Phrase Modifying a Noun or Pronoun

*Restrictive Phrase*  
(narrows down the reference of a noun or pronoun)

*Nonrestrictive Phrase*  
(does not narrow down the reference of a noun or pronoun)

<p>Position of Participle: <i>After the noun being modified</i></p> <p>a. noun as subject</p> <p>b. noun as complement of verb</p> <p>c. noun as object of verb</p> <p>d. noun as object of preposition</p> <p><i>At the beginning of the sentence (modifying the subject)</i></p> <p><i>At the end of the sentence (modifying the subject)</i></p>	<p>The girl <b>talking to the teacher</b> is very intelligent.</p> <p>The person to see is that girl <b>talking to the teacher</b>.</p> <p>Bob knows the girl <b>talking to the teacher</b>.</p> <p>Bob is interested in the girl <b>talking to the teacher</b>.</p>	<p>The new President, <b>supported by all the people</b>, felt confident about the future.</p> <p>This is a good government, <b>supported by all the people</b>.</p> <p>They now have a good government, <b>supported by all the people</b>.</p> <p>They long for a good government, <b>supported by all the people</b>.</p> <p><b>Supported by all the people</b>, the new President felt confident about the future.</p> <p>The new President felt confident about the future, <b>knowing that he had the support of all the people</b>.</p>
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### Participial Phrase as Part of the Object of a Verb

I heard him **talking to the teacher**.

### 5-1

### FORMS OF PARTICIPLES (1)

	<i>Active Voice</i>		<i>Passive Voice</i>	
		<i>Progressive</i>		<i>Progressive</i>
General form	offering (present participle)		offered (past participle)	being offered
Perfect form	having offered	having been offering	having been offered	

Participles are made negative by placing **not** before them—**not offering, not having offered.**

Change the adjective clauses to participial phrases. Use the required form of the participles. Keep the commas if they are used with the adjective clauses.

**Present Participle (example, offering)**

The time of the main verb determines the time of the participle.

**EXAMPLE:** a. The woman who is washing the dishes is our new cook.  
The woman washing the dishes is our new cook. (The participle is derived from a progressive verb.)  
b. Anyone who violates this law will be punished.  
Anyone violating this law will be punished. (The participle is derived from a nonprogressive verb.)

1. The gentleman who is crossing the street is an old friend of my father's.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Anyone who travels in a foreign land should make sure that he has the proper documents.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. All passengers who are not going to Rockaway must change trains at the next stop.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. We need a room which seats one hundred people.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Anyone who doesn't enter the country legally will be immediately deported to the country he came from.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. The young woman, who was running to catch the bus, stumbled and fell.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Past Participle (example, offered)**

The time of the main verb determines the time of the participle.

**EXAMPLE:** Doctors often recommend rabies shots for anyone who is bitten by a strange dog.  
Doctors often recommend rabies shots for anyone bitten by a strange dog.

1. The jewelry which was stolen from our neighbor's house was found by the police.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. A letter which is sent by airmail should arrive sooner than one which is sent by regular mail.  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. We will prosecute anyone who is caught trespassing on this property.

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4. Mr. X, who has been exiled from his homeland for many years, began to make inquiries about whether he could return.

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5. The young violinist, who was encouraged by his teacher, decided to enter his name in the music contest.

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6. The two women, who were dressed in their Sunday best, proceeded on to church.

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7. Any package which is not wrapped properly will not be accepted by the post office.

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### Progressive Passive Participle (example, *being offered*)

This participle expresses present action.

**EXAMPLE:** Those houses which are now being torn down were built fifty years ago.  
Those houses being torn down now were built fifty years ago.

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1. The music which is being played now is by Bach.

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2. The tooth that is being extracted by the dentist has been hurting me for some time.

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3. They expect to help the poor with the money that is being collected.

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4. The air-conditioner which is now being installed should make the room more comfortable.

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5. The letter which is being typed now will introduce you to our representative in London.

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### Perfect Participial Forms

(examples, *having offered*, *having been offering*,  
*having been offered*)

The perfect forms indicate time that corresponds to the present perfect or the past perfect tense. (Informally the general forms of the participle may also be used.)

**EXAMPLE:** Anyone who has talked to him once will be convinced of his innocence.  
Anyone having talked to him once will be convinced of his innocence.

1. The Smiths, who had found just the house they wanted to buy, began to bargain with the owners to reduce the price.

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2. Mr. Preston, who had been offered a good job out-of-town, told his wife they would have to move.

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3. The orchestra members, who had been practicing all day, were very tired by evening.

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4. Anyone who has served a term in prison will not be hired by that company.

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5. Mr. Richards, who had been badly wounded in the last war, was receiving a pension from the government.

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6. Alice, who had not understood the chemistry lectures at all, failed the examination.

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7. The garden, which had been neglected by the former tenants, was overgrown with weeds.

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## 5-2

### FORMS OF PARTICIPLES (2)

Change the adjective clauses to participial phrases, using one of the participial forms given in 5-1. Keep the commas if they are used with the adjective clauses.

1. The girl who is making the most noise is my daughter.

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2. The leaflets which were printed last week will be distributed at tonight's meeting.

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3. The general, who had been warned of the enemy's approaching attack, had all his men ready.

4. The movement, which was doomed from the beginning, came to a very inauspicious end.

5. The children, who had been instructed not to stay out too long, came back before dinner time.

6. The snow which is falling on the highway will make the roads icy by nightfall.

7. The children who were swimming too far from shore were ordered back by the lifeguards.

8. The money which was not accounted for in his will was distributed equally among his children.

9. The men, who were surrounded on all sides by the enemy, had to surrender.

10. The patient, who had been advised by his doctor to stop smoking, made every effort to do so.

11. Many people who live in large cities are very lonely.

12. The dinner which is being prepared now is for the members of the conference.

13. All the guests who are not leaving the hotel tomorrow must let the management know at once.

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14. Any student who does not pass the swimming test will not get credit for this course.

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### 5-3

## PUNCTUATION AND POSITION OF PARTICIPIAL PHRASES

Participial phrases that appear after the nouns they modify are punctuated in the same way as adjective clauses, depending on whether the phrase is restrictive (narrows down the reference) or nonrestrictive (does not narrow down the reference).

1. Restrictive—A student *hoping to finish college in three years* must work very hard. (No commas are used.)
2. Nonrestrictive—Robert, *hoping to finish college in three years*, worked very hard. (Commas are used.)

A. Insert the participial phrases in the blank spaces. Do not use commas if the participial phrases serve to identify the words they refer to, or to limit their quantity.

1. *Participial phrase*—taking a walk in the woods
  - a. A person \_\_\_\_\_  
can see a great variety of birds.
  - b. Our botany class \_\_\_\_\_  
saw a great variety of birds.
2. *Participial phrase*—sitting in the rear of the lecture hall
  - a. Oliver and his friends \_\_\_\_\_  
could not hear the professor.
  - b. The students \_\_\_\_\_  
could not hear the professor.
3. *Participial phrase*—feeling tired
  - a. Any of the swimmers \_\_\_\_\_  
should start to come back to shore.
  - b. One of the swimmers \_\_\_\_\_  
started to come back to shore.
4. *Participial phrase*—gossiping maliciously about her neighbors
  - a. Mrs. Smith \_\_\_\_\_  
soon lost their friendship.
  - b. A woman \_\_\_\_\_  
will soon lose their friendship.

5. *Participial phrase*—having achieved success early in life
  - a. A person \_\_\_\_\_  
may become bored with life.
  - b. My best friend \_\_\_\_\_  
became very bored with life.
6. *Participial phrase*—not satisfied with the service in the store
  - a. Mrs. Johnson \_\_\_\_\_  
complained to the management.
  - b. Any customer \_\_\_\_\_  
may complain to the management.
7. *Participial phrase*—living a life of great luxury
  - a. People \_\_\_\_\_  
are often heedless of the suffering of the poor.
  - b. The millionaire's son \_\_\_\_\_  
was often heedless of the suffering of the poor.
8. *Participial phrase*—much admired by women
  - a. The handsome actor \_\_\_\_\_  
became very vain and arrogant.
  - b. A man \_\_\_\_\_  
may become very vain and arrogant.
9. *Participial phrase*—getting to the concert hall late
  - a. The Browns \_\_\_\_\_  
had to wait until the first number was over before they could be seated.
  - b. Anyone \_\_\_\_\_  
will have to wait until the first number is over before he can be seated.
10. *Participial phrase*—spoiled by his parents.
  - a. Their eldest son \_\_\_\_\_  
never became a mature, responsible adult.
  - b. A boy \_\_\_\_\_  
may never become a mature, responsible adult.
11. *Participial phrase*—not registered for the course
  - a. Anyone \_\_\_\_\_  
will not be allowed to attend the lectures.
  - b. Albert \_\_\_\_\_  
was told he could not attend the lectures.
12. *Participial phrase*—leaving the classroom last
  - a. Their teacher \_\_\_\_\_  
turned off the lights.
  - b. The person \_\_\_\_\_  
should turn off the lights.

Nonrestrictive participial phrases may also appear in initial, or less commonly, in final position.

1. Initial position—*Hoping to finish college in three years, Robert worked very hard.*
2. Final position—*Robert worked very hard, hoping to finish college in three years.*

B. Go over the sentences you have made in A and see which nonrestrictive participial phrases may be moved to initial and final position.

**5-4**

**PARTICIPIAL PHRASES  
IN TWO-PART OBJECTS OF VERBS**

some verbs are followed by two - part objects, the second of which is a participial phrase.

**CATCH, KEEP,  
LEAVE, SEND, FIND**

The police caught *the young boy stealing a car*.

They found *the horse tied to a tree*.

These verbs may be passive - *Their rowboat was found drifting in the lake*.

**Verbs of perception**

**BEHOLD, FEEL, HEAR, LISTEN TO, NOTICE,  
OBSERVE, PERCEIVE, SEE, WATCH, WITNESS**

We heard *the children crying*.

I saw *them running across the street*.

After such verbs of perception, *to*-less infinitives may be alternatives for participial phrases.

We heard the children *cry*.

I saw them *run* across the street.

Add two - part object based on the words in parentheses. Note which participial phrases may alternate with *to* less infinitives.

**EXAMPLE :** a. The official kept (we, wait, several hours).

The official kept waiting (for) several hours.

b. We Watched (children, play, schoolyard).

We Watched the children, playing, schoolyard.

also We Watched the children play in the schoolyard.

1. She felt (her youth rapidly, slip away).

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2. We heard (angry voices, come, next room).

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3. She caught (her daughter, take, money, her purse).

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4. They kept (dog, tie up, yard).

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5. At the airport we can see (tourists, come, go, all day long).
- 
6. He had never before observed (rainbow, arch, sky).
- 
7. He listened sleepily (his teacher, explain, lesson).
- 
8. You can find (they, have, snack, cafeteria).
- 
9. I saw (he, walk, the telephone booth).
- 
10. They kept (passengers, wait, half an hour) while the plane was searched for a bomb.
- 
11. I overheard (he, reprimand, his salesclerk, the mistake).
- 
12. We watched (kitten, try, climb, tree).
- 
13. The bandits left (their victims, strand, desert).
- 
14. He observed (man, enter, building, stealthily).
- 
15. The strong wind sent (his papers, fly, all over the room).
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### 5-5 PARTICIPIAL PHRASES TO EXPRESS MEANS OR MANNER

Participial phrases used in final position may express means or manner with respect to the subject.

She caught cold sitting on the wet grass.

**By** sometimes precedes the participle.

Such participial phrases are especially common after **sit**, **stand**, **lie**.

He sat there staring at the wall.

Use the words in parentheses to form a participial phrase of means or manner.

**EXAMPLE:** a. The boy tore his clothes (climb, trees).

The boy tore his clothes climbing trees.

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b. He's standing at the corner (watch, girls, go by).

He's standing at the corner watching the girls go by.

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1. He earns a living (drive, truck).

---

2. All night long he lay awake (think, his financial problems).

---

3. We spent the whole evening (watch, movies of our hosts' trip to Africa).

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4. He sits around all day (do, nothing).

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5. The injured man lay on the ground (bleed, profusely).

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6. The men amused themselves (tell, stories, the biggest fish they had ever caught).

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7. Some men were sitting in the patio (drink, beer).

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8. He goes around (look, a bum).

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9. He's standing near the window (watch, beautiful sunset).

---

10. He fell asleep (think, her).

---

11. He drove around the block (look, place to park).

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12. The Moslems pray (kneel, rug, and face, direction of Mecca).

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13. She wore herself out (try, pacify, child).

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## 5-6

PARTICIPIAL PHRASES AS ALTERNATIVES  
FOR ADVERBIAL CLAUSES

Like adverbial clauses, participial phrases may indicate *time* or *cause*. Such participial phrases are more likely to occur in initial position than in final position.

<i>Time</i>	<i>Cause</i>
1. <i>After</i> <b>Having finished all her housework</b> , she sat down to watch television.	<b>Having worked hard all his life</b> , he decided to take a long vacation.
2. <i>While or when</i> <b>Walking along the street</b> , I met a friend whom I had not seen for a long time.	

*After* and *because* may be implied simultaneously in a participial phrase—**Having eaten too much, he became sleepy.**

The time word may also be placed before the participial phrase—**after having finished all her housework; while walking along the street.**

A. Expand the participial phrases to adverbial clauses. Note which participial phrases may also have a time word placed before them.

**EXAMPLE:** a. Having shopped all day, she was glad to get home and rest.

After she had shopped all day, she was glad to get home and rest.

(also After shopping all day . . . ; or After having shopped all day . . .)

b. Playing golf in the afternoon heat, he suffered a sunstroke.

While he was playing golf in the afternoon heat, he suffered a sunstroke.

(also While playing golf in the afternoon heat . . .)

1. Opening up her jewelry box, she found her diamond rings gone.

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2. Believing he was a total failure in everything he did, the man was on the point of suicide.

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3. Driving along an almost deserted country road, they ran out of gas.

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4. Putting on her hat and coat quickly, she ran outside to see what was causing such a commotion.

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5. Not caring to accept welfare assistance, they often went without food.

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6. Depressed by the news she had received, she took a tranquilizer to quiet her nerves.

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7. Talking things over, they agreed never to quarrel again.

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8. Respecting her parents' wishes, she always came home before midnight.

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B. Change the adverbial clauses of time or cause to participial phrases. Note which participles may be preceded by time words.

EXAMPLE: a. Because they were impressed by the young man's qualifications, they offered him a good job with their firm.

Impressed by the young man's qualifications, they offered him a good job with their firm.

b. While he was walking in the park, he suddenly had a heart attack.

Walking in the park, he suddenly had a heart attack.

(also While walking in the park . . .)

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1. Because he had been defeated three times in a row, the boxer decided to give up fighting.

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2. Because they found no one at home, they left a note saying they had called.

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3. When they arrived home late at night, they found that the house had been broken into.

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4. While he was backing out of his garage, he hit a dog.

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5. Because he was strongly influenced by his young friends, the boy dropped out of school for a while.

---

6. While they were casting last looks at their loved ones, the draftees sadly boarded the train.

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7. Because he played tennis every day he soon became an expert player.

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8. Because she didn't know that her husband had already contributed, she gave a large sum of money to the Red Cross.

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## 5-7 INSTRUCTIONS WITH *HAVE* + PAST PARTICIPLE

Instructions for performing a service may be referred to in the active or passive voice with **have**.

<i>Active</i>	<i>Passive—with past participle</i>
I had the painter <b>paint</b> my house last year.	I had my house <b>Painted</b> last year.
He had the tailor <b>alter</b> his suit.	He had his suit <b>altered</b> .
We had the store <b>deliver</b> the packages.	We had the packages <b>delivered</b> .

Change the instructions **after have** from active to passive. Omit the agent that carries out the instructions.

*EXAMPLE:* She had the maid wax the floors.  
She had the floors waxed.

1. They had the plumber repair the broken pipe.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. She had the dressmaker shorten her dress.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. They are going to have the serviceman install an air-conditioner tomorrow.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. He had his secretary type a dozen letters.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. We should have the gardener spray the lawn with insecticide.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. They had the upholsterer reupholster their living room set.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. They plan to have a contractor build a swimming pool.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. I had the drycleaner clean a few dresses.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. He always has someone make his shirts to order.  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. I had the dentist clean my teeth.

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11. You must have a lawyer draw up your will immediately.

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12. She is having the store deliver her groceries.

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13. The company is having someone check the applicant's references.

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14. The library had someone rebind the worn books.

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15. He insists on having everyone obey his orders without question.

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## 5-8

### REVIEW OF PARTICIPIAL PHRASES

Combine the following groups of sentences so that the *second sentence* becomes a *participial phrase* referring to the italicized word(s) in the first sentence.

#### Restrictive Phrases

Do not use commas.

EXAMPLE: *The girl* is waiting for a bus.

She is standing on the corner.

The girl standing on the corner is waiting for a bus.

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1. My boss spoke to *the man*.

The man was applying for a job.

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2. The police opened fire on *the refugees*.

The refugees were seeking to cross the frontier.

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3. Some *people* should not throw stones. (omit *some*)

These people live in glass houses.

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4. *A man* will deliver the package to you.

He will be wearing a dark brown suit.

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5. We are going to use *the money* for medical research.  
The money was collected from the school children.
- 

### Nonrestrictive Phrases

Use commas. Note the possible positions of the participial phrases.

6. *I* took a taxi.  
I was very late for work.
- 
7. *John* decided to take a long vacation.  
He felt run down and discouraged.
- 
8. *His wife* was always afraid to drive.  
She had never learned properly.
- 
9. *The students* didn't know how to answer the questions.  
They were surprised at the way the questions were put.
- 
10. *The boat* began to sink.  
It was broken in two by the storm.
- 
11. *The foreign students* were asked to report to the Dean's office.  
They had all done poorly on the final examination.
- 

### Participial Phrases as Part of the Object of a Verb

Do not use commas.

12. We watched *the horses*.  
They were running around the track.
- 
13. The soldiers saw *the enemy line*.  
It fell back slowly under the heavy fire.
- 
14. I felt *the earth*.  
It was shaking under me.
-

15. Everyone ran out to hear *the announcement*.  
It was being broadcast in the street.

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**5-9**

**USING PARTICIPIAL PHRASES  
FOR SUMMARIZING**

Study the following paragraphs carefully. Underline the parts of each paragraph that are required for completing the summary sentence. Use your own words as much as possible. (Do *not* write more than one sentence for each paragraph.)

There is no drop of water in the ocean, not even in the deepest parts of the abyss, that does not know and respond to the mysterious forces that create the tide. No other force that affects the sea is so strong. Compared with the tide the wind-created waves are surface movements felt, at most, no more than a hundred fathoms below the surface. So, despite their impressive sweep, are the planetary currents, which seldom involve more than the upper several hundred fathoms. The masses of water affected by the tidal movement are enormous. . . .

*The Sea Around Us*, Rachel L. Carson<sup>1</sup>

Summary sentence—The greatest force affecting \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_

The tides are a response of the mobile waters of the ocean to the pull of the moon and the more distant sun. In theory, there is a gravitational attraction between every drop of sea water and even the outermost star of the universe. In practice, however, the pull of the remote stars is so slight as to be obliterated in the vaster movements by which the ocean yields to the moon and the sun. Anyone who has lived near tidewater knows that the moon, far more than the sun, controls the tides. He has noticed that, just as the moon rises later each day by fifty minutes, on the average, than the day before, so, in most places, the time of high tide is correspondingly later each day. And as the moon waxes and wanes in its monthly cycle, so the height of the tide varies. . . .

*The Sea Around Us*, Rachel L. Carson<sup>1</sup>

Summary sentence—Responding to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, the tide \_\_\_\_\_

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