

## Using Participial Phrases

### Practice 4: Unscrambling

1. Unscramble the list of sentence parts and write out the sentence.
2. Underline the sentence parts that are participial phrases. NOTE: The capitalized sentence part begins the sentence.

#### EXAMPLE

##### Scrambled Sentence Parts:

a. at the edge of the field

b. sniffing the air currents

c. The doe paused

##### Unscrambled Sentence:

The doe paused at the edge of the field, sniffing the air currents.

Alexander Key, *The Forgotten Door*

① Create a simple sentence, ② then stretch it by adding the Participial phrase in an effective and appropriate position. ③ use the necessary punctuation

## Using Participial Phrases

1a. braced

1b. trying to tighten the grip of his legs about the unicorn's broad neck

1c. Charles Wallace

Madeleine L'Engle, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*

2a. stamping their bare feet on the floor to shake the sand off

2b. crowded in

2c. The children

Lois Lenski, *Strawberry Girl*

3a. pressing her face in the feather bed to stifle her sobs

3b. Now when a buyer came to look at the colts

3c. Maureen did not run to her room as she used to do

Marguerite Henry, *Misty of Chincoteague*

4a. rose and went out

4b. The White Witch

4c. ordering Edmund to go with her

C. S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

5a. was watching this performance over the rim of her book with some interest

5b. Matilda

5c. nestling in her usual chair

Roald Dahl, *Matilda*

6a. rolling over peaks and through valleys like a car on a roller coaster

6b. Faster and faster the Polar Express

6c. ran along

Chris Van Allsburg, *The Polar Express*

## Using Participial Phrases

### Practice 1: Matching

A participial phrase is a sentence part that describes a person, place, or thing named in a sentence. Present participles always begin with a word that ends in *ing*. They always answer one of these questions:

What is he doing? What is she doing? What are they doing? (*people*)

What is it doing? (*place or thing*)

Participles occur at the beginning of a sentence (*opener*), between a subject and verb (*s-v split*), or at the end of a sentence (*closer*).

#### EXAMPLES OF PARTICIPLES

Opener: Rising with the two pups held close to my chest, I asked if I owned anything.

Wilson Rawls, *Where the Red Fern Grows*

Interrupter:

S- V Split: Sophie, sitting on the Big Friendly Giant's hand, peeped out of the cave.

Roald Dahl, *The Big Friendly Giant*

Closer: She turned toward the window, pressing her cheeks to the little glass panes to cool them of their smarting.

Rachel Field, *Calico Bush*

#### Directions:

1. Match the participles with the sentences.
2. Write out each sentence, inserting and underlining the participle.
3. Use all three positions at least once—opener, s-v split, closer.

**Sentences:**

1. Suddenly the shark soared up out of the water in a fountain of spray.

Willard Price, "The Killer Shark"

2. The children came charging back into their homeroom.

Rosa Guy, *The Friends*

3. The ponies rolled in the wiry grass.

Marguerite Henry, *Misty of Chincoteague*

4. The fly in the spider web was beating its wings furiously.

E. B. White, *Charlotte's Web*

5. I closed my eyes again.

Theodore Taylor, *The Cay*

6. I dream I'm flying over a sandy beach in the early morning.

Toni Cade Bambara, *Raymond's Run*

**Participles:**

- a. trying to break loose and free itself

- b. letting out great whinnies of happiness

- c. turning as it fell

- d. touching the leaves of the trees as I fly by

- e. thinking maybe I was dreaming

- f. shouting and screaming