

The Governess by Neil Simon
Integrated Language Skills: Grammar

Participial Phrases

A **participle** is a verb form that is used as an adjective. Participles commonly end in *-ing* (present participle) or *-ed* (past participle). A **participial phrase** is made up of a participle with its modifiers and complements, such as adverbs or objects. The entire participial phrase is used as an adjective.

Example: The tourist, *confused by the signs*, got lost.
Traveling quickly, we got to the game on time.
 Lila, *loving hot weather*, visits Santa Fe each August.

A. PRACTICE: *In each sentence, underline the participial phrase.*

1. Sitting behind her desk, Mistress questions Julia.
2. Julia, worried about her job, answered hesitantly.
3. Mistress, asking questions repeatedly, made Julia more nervous.
4. Julia, weeping quietly, stared at the ground.
5. Lifting Julia's head, Mistress made her look up.
6. Mistress gave Julia the rest of her money, insisting that she take it.
7. Baffled by the encounter, Mistress sat alone onstage.

B. Writing Application: *Write sentences about the characters in The Governess using each participial phrase shown.*

1. curtsying to Mistress

2. writing in her book

3. confused by the questions

4. handing Julia the envelope

5. angered by Julia's humility
