

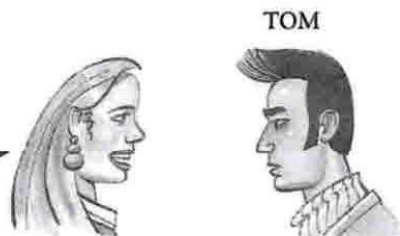
-ing and -ed Phrases (the woman talking to Tom, the boy injured in the accident)

A

Study these examples:

Do you know the woman **talking to Tom** ?
└ -ing phrase ┘

the woman
talking to Tom →



The boy **injured in the accident** was taken to the hospital.
└ -ed phrase ┘

the boy injured
in the accident →



B

We use **-ing** phrases to say what somebody (or something) is/was doing at a particular time:

- Do you know the woman **talking to Tom**? (the woman is talking to Tom)
- Police **investigating the crime** are looking for three men. (police are investigating)
- Who were those people **waiting outside**? (they were waiting)
- I was awakened by a bell **ringing**. (a bell was ringing)

When you are talking about *things* (and sometimes people), you can use an **-ing** phrase to say what something does all the time, not just at a particular time. For example:

- The road **connecting the two towns** is very narrow. (the road connects the two towns)
- I have a large bedroom **overlooking the garden**. (the bedroom overlooks the garden)
- Can you think of the name of a flower **beginning with "t"**? (the name begins with "t")

C

-ed phrases have a *passive* meaning:

- The boy **injured in the accident** was taken to the hospital. (the boy was injured in the accident)
- Some of the people **invited to the party** can't come. (they have been invited)

Injured and **invited** are *past participles*. Note that many past participles are irregular and do not end in **-ed** (made, bought, stolen, etc.):

- Most of the goods **made in this factory** are exported. (the goods are made . . .)
- The police never found the money **stolen in the robbery**. (the money was stolen)

You can use **left** in this way, with the meaning *not used, still there*:

- We've spent almost all our money. We only have a little **left**.

For irregular past participles, see Appendix 1.

D

We often use **-ing** and **-ed** phrases after **there is / there was**, etc.:

- **There were** some children **swimming in the river**.
- **Is there** anybody **waiting**?
- **There was** a big red car **parked outside the house**.

Exercises

94.1 Make one sentence from two. Use the information in parentheses to make an *-ing* phrase. The *-ing* phrase sometimes goes in the middle of the new sentence, and sometimes goes at the end.

1. I was awakened by a bell. (The bell was ringing.)
I was awakened by a bell ringing.
2. I didn't talk much to the man. (The man was sitting next to me on the plane.)
3. The taxi broke down. (The taxi was taking us to the airport.)
4. At the end of the street there is a path. (The path leads to the river.)
5. A new factory has just opened in town. (The factory employs 500 people.)

94.2 Make one sentence from two, beginning as shown. Each time make an *-ed* phrase.

1. A boy was injured in the accident. He was taken to the hospital.
The boy injured in the accident was taken to the hospital.
2. A number of suggestions were made at the meeting. Most of them were not very practical.
Most of the suggestions _____.
3. Some paintings were stolen from the museum. They haven't been found yet.
The _____.
4. A man was arrested by the police. What was his name?
What was the name _____?

94.3 Complete the sentences using one of the following verbs in the correct form:

blow drive **invite** live name offer read **ring** sell sit

1. I was awakened by a bell *ringing*.
2. A lot of the people *invited* to the party cannot come.
3. Life must be very unpleasant for people _____ near busy airports.
4. A few days after the interview, I received a letter _____ me the job.
5. Somebody _____ Jack phoned while you were out.
6. There was a tree _____ down in the storm last night.
7. The waiting room was empty except for a young man _____ by the window _____ a magazine.
8. Look! The man _____ the red car almost hit the person _____ newspapers on the street corner.

94.4 Use the words in parentheses to make sentences using *there is / there was, etc.*

1. That house is empty. (no one / live / in it) *There's no one living in it.*
2. The accident wasn't serious. (nobody / injure) *There was nobody injured.*
3. I can hear footsteps. (someone / come)
There _____.
4. The train was full. (a lot of people / travel)
5. We were the only guests at the hotel. (nobody else / stay there)
6. The piece of paper was blank. (nothing / write / on it)
7. The school offers English courses in the evening. (a course / begin / next Monday)