

POWER SENTENCES - USING PARTICIPIAL PHRASES

★ PRACTICE 1: MATCHING

- Match the participial phrases with the sentences.
- Write out each sentence, inserting and underlining the participial phrase at the caret (^).
- Use all three positions at least once — opener, s-v split, closer.
- Remember to add commas as necessary.

EXAMPLE: *The children, shouting and screaming, came charging back into their homeroom.*

Rosa Guy, *The Friends*

Sentences:

Participial Phrases:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Suddenly the shark soared up out of the water in a fountain of spray, ^.
Willard Price, "The Killer Shark" | a. trying to break loose and free itself |
| 2. The penguins, ^, looked curiously at Mr. Greenbaum.
Richard and Florence Atwater, <i>Mr. Popper's Penguins</i> | b. standing politely in two rows of six each |
| 3. The fly in the spider web was beating its wings furiously, ^.
E.B. White, <i>Charlotte's Web</i> | c. turning as it fell |
| 4. ^, I closed my eyes again.
Theodore Taylor, <i>The Cay</i> | d. touching the leaves of the trees as I fly by |
| 5. I dream I'm flying over a sandy beach in the early morning, ^.
Toni Cade Bambara, <i>Raymond's Run</i> | e. thinking maybe I was dreaming |

★ PRACTICE 2: IDENTIFYING

- A. Write the following sentences.
- B. Underline the participial phrase in each sentence.
- C. Remember to add commas as necessary.

EXAMPLE: Arriving at the used-up haystack, the boy leaned against the barbed wire fence.

6. The snow swirled, blurring his vision.
Lois Lowry, *The Giver*

7. A cloud shadow, drifting the breadth of Trial Valley, spread across the inscrutable face of Old Joshua.
Bill and Vera Cleaver, *Where the Lilies Bloom*

8. Lying back in the soft hay, I folded my hands behind my head, closed my eyes, and let my mind wander back over the two long years.
Wilson Rawls, *Where the Red Fern Grows*

9. Mounted on high-stepping horses, a pair of soldiers were advancing along the river road.
Sid Fleischman, *The Whipping Boy*

10. In the other narrow bed, his brother Eugene went on sleeping, undisturbed by the alarm clock's rusty ring.
Gina Berriault, "The Stone Boy"

★ PRACTICE 3: COMBINING

- A. Combine the two sentences by making the underlined part of the second sentence a participial phrase to put at the caret (^).
- B. Write the new sentence and underline the participial phrase.
- C. Remember to include commas and end punctuation.

EXAMPLE:

- a. James stood alone, out in the open, ^.
- b. He was wondering what to do.

Roald Dahl, *James and the Giant Peach*

James stood alone, out in the open, wondering what to do.

11a. The exercise got the blood pumping through his brain, ^.

11b. It was numbed by the hours of lost sleep.

Joseph Krumgold, *Onion John*

12a. ^ The Trunchbull lowered him back into his chair beside the desk.

12b. She was still holding him by the ears.

William H. Armstrong, *Souder*

13a. He was standing very still, ^.

13b. He was holding it tightly with both hands while the crowd pushed and shouted all around him.

Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

14a. The crocodile, ^, glided silently toward her until, without the slightest warning, it intended to snap its powerful jaws over her head.

14b. It was pretending to be a harmless dog.

Rani Manicka, *The Rice Mother*

15a. ^ The prince breathed in the sweet, fresh air.

15b. He was standing in the clear sunshine.

Sid Fleischman, *The Whipping Boy*

★ PRACTICE 4: UNSCRAMBLING

- A. Unscramble the list of sentence parts and write out the sentence. Add commas and end punctuation where necessary.
- B. Underline the sentence parts that are participial phrases. NOTE: The capitalized sentence part begins the sentence.

EXAMPLE:

- a. at the edge of the field
- b. sniffing the air currents
- c. The doe paused

Alexander Key, *The Forgotten Door*

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

- 16a. braced
- 16b. trying to tighten the grip of his legs about the unicorn's broad neck
- 16c. Charles Wallace

Madeleine L'Engle, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*

- 17a. stamping their bare feet on the floor to shake the sand off
- 17b. crowded in
- 17c. The children

Lois Lenski, *Strawberry Girl*

- 18a. rolling over peaks and through valleys like a car on a roller coaster
- 18b. Faster and faster the Polar Express
- 18c. ran along

Chris Van Allsburg, *The Polar Express*

- 19a. around his shoulders
- 19b. hunched against a tree root
- 19c. was pulling his cloak closer
- 19d. Taran

Lloyd Alexander, *The Book of Three*

- 20a. swung Seabiscuit clear of a set of chain-reaction collisions on the far turn
- 20b. Pollard, the jockey,
- 20d. Fighting his way through one of the wildest races
- 20e. of the season

Laura Hillenbrand, *Seabiscuit: An American Legend*