

Participle Adjectives: Describing Feelings and Situations

INTERMEDIATE

Focus: Suffixes for feelings, Suffixes for characteristics, Subjective vs objective descriptions, Boredom and interest, Surprise and shock, Disappointment and satisfaction, Bored with, Interested in, Disappointed with, Excited about

1. The Golden Rule: -ED vs. -ING

Participle adjectives are formed from verbs (e.g., *to bore*, *to interest*). The ending you choose changes the meaning completely.

A. Adjectives ending in -ED (My Feeling)

We use **-ed** adjectives to describe **how a person feels**. It describes a subjective emotion or reaction to something.

- *Examples:*
 - I am **bored**. (This is my feeling).
 - She was **surprised**.
 - They are **interested** in history.

B. Adjectives ending in -ING (The Cause)

We use **-ing** adjectives to describe **the characteristic of a thing, person, or situation**. It describes the *cause* of the feeling.

- *Examples:*
 - The movie is **boring**. (The movie causes boredom).
 - The news was **surprising**.
 - History is **interesting**.

The Cause (-ING)	Creates	The Feeling (-ED)
The class is boring .	→	The student is bored .
The game was exciting .	→	The fans were excited .
The noise is annoying .	→	I am annoyed .

2. Common Adjective + Preposition Collocations

When describing feelings (-ed adjectives), we often use specific prepositions.

- **Interested IN** something.
 - *I am interested **in** photography.*
- **Bored WITH** something.
 - *He is bored **with** his job.*
- **Excited ABOUT** something.
 - *We are excited **about** the trip.*
- **Disappointed WITH** (or IN) something/someone.
 - *She was disappointed **with** the results.*
- **Shocked AT** (or BY) something.
 - *They were shocked **at** the price.*

Practice Exercises

Instruction: Complete the sentences using the correct adjective form (-ed or -ing) of the word in parentheses. Pay attention to whether the sentence is Affirmative (+), Negative (-), or a Question (?).

- **Tip:** If the cue is (not/verb), include "not" before the adjective.
- **Tip:** Look for prepositions (in, with, about) to help you decide if it describes a feeling.

1. I didn't like that horror movie. It was too _____ (frighten) for me.
2. We were _____ (not/satisfy) with the service at the restaurant last night.
3. Why do you look so _____ (worry)? Is something wrong?
4. The instructions were extremely _____ (confuse), so nobody understood the task.
5. I am _____ (not/interest) in football; I prefer basketball.
6. Was he _____ (shock) when he heard the news about the accident?
7. It has been a long day. I am going to bed because I feel _____ (exhaust).
8. Do you think this museum is _____ (bore)? I think it's fascinating!
9. She is _____ (not/excite) about the concert because she doesn't like the band.
10. That was the most _____ (embarrass) moment of my life!
11. Are the children _____ (disappoint) with their exam results?
12. The hike up the mountain was _____ (tire), but the view was worth it.
13. I was _____ (not/amuse) by his rude jokes.
14. Is it _____ (surprise) that he passed the test without studying?
15. He never stops talking about himself. He is the most _____ (bore) person I know.

Answer Key

1. **frightening** (Describes the movie/cause)
2. **not satisfied** (Describes feelings + negative)
3. **worried** (Describes feeling/subjective)
4. **confusing** (Describes the instructions/cause)
5. **not interested** (Describes feeling + preposition "in")
6. **shocked** (Describes feeling/subjective)
7. **exhausted** (Describes feeling/subjective)
8. **boring** (Describes the museum/characteristic)
9. **not excited** (Describes feeling + preposition "about")
10. **embarrassing** (Describes the moment/cause)
11. **disappointed** (Describes feelings + preposition "with")
12. **tiring** (Describes the hike/cause)
13. **not amused** (Describes feeling/subjective)
14. **surprising** (Describes the situation/cause)
15. **boring** (Describes the person's characteristic/cause)