Present Participle As an object complement

The present participle can be used as an object complement placed after the object.

He kept me **waiting**.
I found the child **sitting** outside.

As a subject complement

The present participle can be used as a subject complement placed after verbs like **be**, **seem**, **look**, **turn**, **become**, **appear** etc.

The story was **interesting**.
The child seemed **smiling**.
The long journey was **tiring**.

As an adjective phrase

The present participle can be used as part of an adjective phrase generally put after the noun it qualifies.

The boy **standing** at the gate is John.
Who is that woman **talking** with your husband?
Call the man **waiting** outside.

To talk about an earlier action

The present participle can be used to talk about an earlier action, or one of the actions of the same subject.

**Seeing** the snake, the man ran away.
**Finding** none in the class, the teacher became angry.
**Entering** the room, we found the child sleeping.

In the appositive position

The present participle can be used in the appositive position.

The woman, **quivering and trembling**, ran away.

As an adverb modifying an adjective

It is **piping** hot.
It is **freezing** cold.
She was dripping wet.

**In absolute phrases**

The participles are used in absolute phrases with a noun or pronoun going before them:

**God willing,** we shall meet again.
The sea **being rough,** they abandoned the journey.

Note that each of these absolute phrases can be transformed into a subordinate clause:

If God is willing, we shall meet again.
As the sea was rough, they abandoned the journey.

**Uses of the past participle**

**To form the perfect tenses**

The past participle is used to form the perfect tenses.

They have **arrived.** (Present perfect)
They have been **invited.** (Present perfect – passive)
They had **left.** (Past perfect)
They will have **returned.** (Future perfect)

**As an adjective**

The past participle can be used as an adjective in all the positions and functions of a typical adjective.

She swept away the **fallen** leaves.
A **burnt** child dreads fire.
He wore a **torn** shirt.

Here the past participles are used as adjectives before the nouns they qualify.

**As part of the predicate**

The past participle can be used as part of the predicate after copular verbs such as be, seem, look, appear etc.

The woman looked **distressed.**
She seemed **surprised.**
He was left **stranded.**
Uses of the Participle

**In the appositive position**

The past participle can be used in the appositive position.

*Dejected* he left the room.

**As object complements**

Past participles can be used as object complements.

I found him somewhat *recovered*.

**As an adverb**

The past participle can be used as an adverb modifying an adjective.

I am dead tired.
He was dead drunk.

**To express an earlier action of the same subject**

*Deceived* by his friends, he killed himself.
*Terrified*, they fled from the scene.

Past participles can also be used in absolute phrases with a noun or pronoun going before them.

The fog *having lifted* the plane took off.