

Read and Discover

Verbals: Participles and Participial Phrases

Lesson 8

Walking through the dense Asian forest, the elephants search for food.

Circle the two verbs in the sentence above. Which verb tells what the subject of the sentence does? search

Which verb begins a descriptive phrase? walking

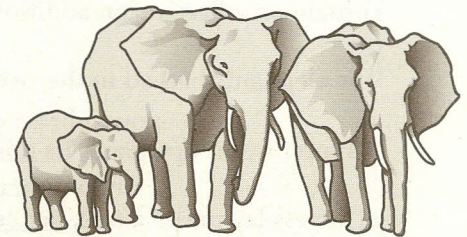
Sometimes a verb does not act as the simple predicate of a sentence. A **verbal** is a word formed from a verb that plays another role in the sentence. One type of verbal is a **participle**. A participle may be a present participle (*covering*) or a past participle (*consumed*). A **participial phrase** is made of a participle and other words that complete its meaning. A participial phrase can act as an adjective. In the sentence above, *Walking through the dense Asian forest* is a participial phrase that describes *elephants*.

See Handbook Sections 18d, 25a

Part 1

Underline each participial phrase. Then circle the participle.

1. Visitors traveling to Africa and certain parts of Asia might see elephants.
2. Identified as the largest living land mammal, the African elephant is found in the wild only in Africa.
3. Weighing about 12,000 pounds, an adult male African elephant stands approximately 11 feet tall at the shoulder.
4. Zoologists researching African elephants have determined that there are two different types: bush elephants and forest elephants.
5. The type of African elephant known as the bush elephant is found in most countries south of the Sahara.
6. Inhabiting the countries of central and western Africa, forest elephants live in forests, grasslands, and mountains.
7. The type of elephant called the Asian elephant is smaller than the African elephant.
8. Standing 9 to 10½ feet tall at the shoulder, an adult male Asian elephant can weigh up to 8,000 pounds.
9. Found in parts of India and Southeast Asia, Asian elephants are light gray and may have pink or white spots.
10. Two humps located just above the Asian elephant's ears give the animal a distinctive appearance.
11. Scientists studying elephants have discovered many amazing things about them.
12. Experts observing wild elephants have documented their highly complex societies.
13. Possessing special receptors on their feet, elephants can pick up underground vibrations.
14. The animals can sense vibrations indicating potential danger.
15. Elephants living in seaside areas ran to safety in advance of the deadly Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004.



Elephants are highly intelligent and social animals.