

PAST PARTICIPLE
VS
ADJECTIVE

PAST PARTICIPLE

A past participle is a verb form used in:

- **Perfect tenses**
- **Passive voice**

Perfect tense:

She **has written** a book. (*Present perfect*)

They **had finished** the project. (*Past perfect*)

Passive voice:

The window **was broken** by the storm.

The letter **was written** in French.

ADJECTIVE

An adjective modifies a noun by describing its state or quality.

1. A **tall girl** was standing there.
2. The **blue** sky looked beautiful.
3. She wore a **red** dress.
4. He is a **smart** boy.
5. They have a **big** house.
6. I saw a **black** dog.
7. It's a **cold** morning.

ADJECTIVE

Some past participles can function as adjective-like descriptors when they lose their verbal meaning.

1. The **broken** chair (adjective describing 'chair')
2. A **written** agreement (describing 'agreement')
3. A **closed** door
4. A **bored** student

HOW TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?

Ask yourself:

"Is this helping a verb (tense/voice), or describing a noun?"

He has broken the glass.

Past Participle

The broken glass was on the floor.

Adjective

I have written the letter.

Past Participle

The written letter was emotional.

Adjective

QUICK TIP

Some past participles can function as adjective-like descriptors when they lose their verbal meaning.

Past Participle = Verb use

Used with "have", "is", "was", "been", etc.

Adjective = Describes a noun

Usually used **before a noun** or **after linking verbs** (is, looks, seems, feels)

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