

Her son is *grown*. [dubious in BrE, but *full-grown* or *grown-up* is fully acceptable]

The guests are *departed*. <archaic>

[b] Sometimes there is a corresponding verb, but it has a different meaning. We can therefore have ambiguous sentences where the ambiguity depends on whether the word is a participle or a participial adjective:

{ ADJECTIVE: She is (very) *calculating* (but her husband is frank).

{ PARTICIPLE: She is *calculating* (our salaries). ['... so don't disturb her while she is doing the arithmetic']

{ ADJECTIVE: They were (very) *relieved* (to find her at home).

{ PARTICIPLE: They were *relieved* (by the next group of sentries).

**7.6** Often the difference between the adjective and the participle is not clear-cut (cf 17.30ff). The verbal force of the participle is explicit for the *-ing* form when a direct object is present. Hence, the following *-ing* forms are participles that constitute a verb phrase with the preceding auxiliary:

Her views were *alarming* her audience.

You are *frightening* the children.

They are *insulting* us.

Similarly, the verbal force is explicit for the *-ed* form when a *by*-agent phrase with a personal agent is present, indicating the correspondence to the active form of the sentence:

The man was *offended* by the policeman.

He is *appreciated* by his students.

She was *misunderstood* by her parents.

For both participle forms, premodification by the intensifier *very* is an explicit indication that the forms have achieved adjective status:

Her views were very *alarming*.

You are very *frightening*.

The man was very *offended*.

We might therefore expect that the presence of *very* together with an explicit indicator of verbal force would produce an unacceptable sentence. This is certainly so for the *-ing* participle form:

\*His views were very *alarming* his audience.

However, with the *-ed* participle, there appears to be divided usage, with increasing acceptance of the cooccurrence of *very* with a *by*-agent phrase containing a personal agent:

?The man was very *offended* by the policeman.

In the absence of any explicit indicator, the status of the participle form is indeterminate:

The man was *offended*.

For the *-ed* form in this example, the participle interpretation focuses on the process, while the adjective interpretation focuses on the state resulting from the process. For the *-ing* form the difference is perhaps clearer. In the sentence *John is insulting*, with no object present, the participle interpretation is implausible because the verb is normally transitive.

#### NOTE

[a] Generally, *-ed* participle forms accepting *very* can retain *very* when they cooccur with a *by*-phrase containing a nonpersonal noun phrase that expresses the notion of cause or reason:

I'm very *disturbed* by your attitude.

We were very *pleased* by his behaviour.

[b] The participle sometimes reaches full adjective status when it is compounded with another element:

It is *breaking* my heart. ~ It is (very) *heart-breaking*.

[c] Like participial adjectives, *-ing* and *-ed* participles can be attributive, as the following examples show:

her <i>crying</i> children	a <i>married</i> couple
a <i>winning</i> team	his <i>published</i> work
<i>boiling</i> water	the <i>captured</i> prisoner

Some verbs have different participle forms for verbal and adjectival use:

You have *drunk* too much. ~ *drunk* (en) driving/driver

Have you *shaved*? ~ a *clean-shaven* young man

The shirt has *shrunk*. ~ a *shrunk* shirt

Note the pronunciation /ɪd/ of the ending *-ed* in some adjectives, eg: *beloved* /brɪ'ləvɪd/. Other examples:

<i>crooked</i>	<i>dogged</i>	<i>jagged</i>	<i>learned</i>
<i>naked</i>	<i>ragged</i>	<i>wicked</i>	<i>wretched</i>

The suffix of *aged* is pronounced as a separate syllable /ɪd/ when the word is predicative or is attributive of a personal noun (*The man is aged*; *an aged man* 'old'), but not, for example, in *an aged wine* or *a man aged fifty*.

#### Syntactic functions of adjectives

##### Attributive and predicative

**7.7** Adjectives are attributive when they premodify the head of a noun phrase (17.29):

a *small* garden      *popular* ballads

They are predicative when they function as subject complement or object complement (cf 10.5):

He seems *careless*. (C<sub>s</sub>)

I find him *careless*. (C<sub>o</sub>)