

Adjective or present participle

An -ing form can be used in several different ways. Sometimes it is used like a present participle. Sometimes it is used like an adjective. It can also be used like a noun or an adverb.

State whether the -ing forms used in the following sentences are adjectives or present participles.

1. A rolling stone gathers no moss.

Rolling is an adjective

Rolling is a present participle

2. That was an interesting book.

Interesting is an adjective

Interesting is a present participle

3. You are smoking too much.

Smoking is a present participle

Smoking is an adjective

Adjective or present participle

4. He put the smoking cigarette end in the ashtray.

Smoking is a present participle

Smoking is an adjective

5. The delay was maddening.

Maddening is an adjective

Maddening is a present participle

6. She is waiting for us.

Waiting is an adjective

Waiting is a present participle

7. The scenery was enchanting.

Adjective or present participle

Enchanting is an adjective

Enchanting is a present participle

8. Barking dogs seldom bite.

Barking is an adjective

Barking is a present participle

9. The news was distressing.

Distressing is an adjective

Distressing is a present participle

10. Interesting though it was, I didn't like the film.

Interesting is an adjective

Interesting is a present participle

Adjective or present participle

Answers

1. Rolling is an adjective
2. Interesting is an adjective
3. Smoking is a present participle.
4. Smoking is an adjective.
5. Maddening is an adjective.
6. Waiting is a present participle.
7. Enchanting is an adjective.
8. Barking is an adjective.
9. Distressing is an adjective.
10. Interesting is an adjective.

Notes

When an -ing form is used to make continuous tenses, it acts like a present participle.

When an -ing form is used to modify a noun, it acts like an adjective. -ing forms used like subject complements are also adjectives.