



Unit 8

Adjectives Ending in *-ing* and *-ed*

Pretest

Circle the best answer.

1. Low TOEFL scores are (disappointing) (disappointed) to test takers.
2. (Scary) (Scared) hikers called for help when they lost their way in the woods.
3. *Gelato* is a (delightful) (delighted) dessert from Italy.
4. The town fire department had the (overwhelming) (overwhelmed) task of extinguishing a three-alarm fire.
5. People are (surprising) (surprised) that Saudi Arabia has such a small population in relation to its land size.

Explanation

Forming Adjectives with *-ing* and *-ed*

In English, some adjectives are formed by adding *-ing* or *-ed* to the verb.

| Verb | Adjectives | |
|--------|-------------|------------|
| | <i>-ing</i> | <i>-ed</i> |
| excite | exciting | excited |

-ing

Adjectives with the suffix *-ing* characterize or describe the entity they refer to.

Our trip to Boston was *interesting*.

This year the School of Dance faculty has admitted some *exciting young dancers*.

Some of the historical details the speaker included were *boring*.

Here, the trip to Boston is described as *interesting*, the dancers are characterized as *exciting*, and some of the historical details are considered *boring*.

The suffix *-ing* is related to *cause*. For example, if something is *boring*, it causes boredom. If it is *pleasing*, it causes pleasure.

-ed

The suffix *-ed*, on the other hand, describes the effect that a person, a place, a situation, an event, etc. has on someone.

We were *interested* in the history of Boston.

The School of Dance faculty is *excited* about some new young dancers.

The listeners were *bored* with the historical details of the speech.

The history of Boston interests us; the young dancers excite the faculty; the historical details bore us.

Compare the following two sentences.

John is boring.

John is bored.

In the first sentence, *boring* characterizes John. He bores people. In the second sentence, *bored* is how John feels. Something such as piano practice or a slow football game has affected him and made him bored.

Mistakes Using *-ing* and *-ed*

The following sentences are incorrect because they do not express the meaning the speaker wishes to convey.

The *New Yorker* magazine has some ~~amused~~ ^{amusing} cartoons. (The readers are *amused* by the cartoons.)

We were ~~surprising~~ ^{surprised} to find arrowheads near the river. (The arrowheads were a *surprising* find.)

Dracula and Frankenstein are ~~frightened~~ ^{frightening} film characters. (The audience feels *frightened*, not Dracula or Frankenstein.)

The staff is ~~disappointing~~ ^{disappointed} because they didn't receive a raise. (Not receiving the raise is *disappointing*.)

Common Adjectives ending in *-ing* and *-ed*

The following is a partial list of adjectives that end in *-ing* and *-ed*. Notice the exceptions.

| <i>-ing</i> | <i>-ed</i> | <i>Other</i> |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| amusing | amused | |
| boring | bored | |
| charming | charmed | |
| | delighted | delightful |
| disappointing | disappointed | |
| disgusting | disgusted | |
| exciting | excited | |
| frightening | frightened | |
| interesting | interested | |
| overwhelming | overwhelmed | |
| pleasing | pleased | |
| | scared | scary |
| shocking | shocked | |
| surprising | surprised | |
| threatening | threatened | |

9. "How does Monica like her new scooter?"

"She's _____ with it."

- a. delighted
- b. delighting
- c. delight
- d. delightful

10. "You look nervous."

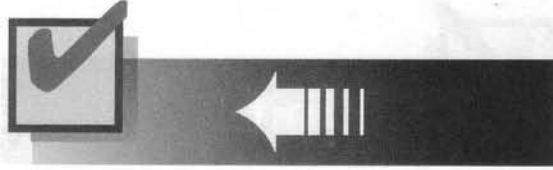
"This thunder makes me _____."

- a. scary
- b. scare
- c. scaring
- d. scared

Final Test

Study the following sentences. Decide if the italicized portion of the sentence is *correct* (C) or *incorrect* (I). Circle your answer.

1. They are *frightened* statistics about the number of animals that are nearly extinct. C I
2. Persons *interested* in enrolling in night courses should contact their local school district. C I
3. Charlie Chaplin was well known for the *amusing* characters he portrayed. C I
4. During the long, *bored* winters pioneer women took up such activities as sewing and candle making. C I
5. Remarks that children make can be shocking and *delighting*. C I



Review Test

Circle the italicized portion of the item that is *incorrect*.

1. The condor, *alike other* members of the vulture family, *has* no feathers on *its* head.
2. The canoe trip was *exciting* until we tipped over. Then we were *scary* and *didn't enjoy ourselves*.
3. In recent years, Mexico City *has experienced* the *most great* increase in population *of* any major city *in* North America.
4. This year *the* judges *awarded* the blue ribbon for the *bestest* apple pie in *the* county fair to Colleen Murphy.
5. *More as* twenty *million* dollars is *donated yearly* to local charities in this area.
6. Even though men are *physically stronger than* women, they are *less healthier* and die *younger*.
7. Giraffes, *the tallest* animals *in* the world, measure more or less *as same* height as a *one-story* building.
8. New York City is an *excited* place to visit; *however*, many tourists are *overwhelmed* by *its* size.
9. Some people think animated films are *terribly boring*. *Whereas*, others are *charmed* by them.
10. Academic English prepares students for *demanding* university studies; workplace English, *in the other hand*, is useful for workers who speak English *frequently* on *the* job.