

-Ed and -Ing Adjectives

Some adjectives look a lot like verbs. In fact, they are called verbals to acknowledge their verb origins. *Excited*, for example, comes from the verb *excite*. But so does *exciting*. So which is it—is your biology lab *excited* or *exciting*? What's the difference? The difference is that *-ed* adjectives usually describe people or animals while *-ing* adjectives usually describe things or situations.

These -ed adjectives describe people or animals

Many adjectives end in *-ed*. They are called participles (or past participles). Like other adjectives, they describe a noun or pronoun. The *-ed* adjectives below describe a person or animal:

*The **amused** audience laughed at his jokes.*
*The man at the bus stop seemed **bored**.*
*My parents were **confused** by your directions.*
*I always feel **energized** after my run.*
*We were **excited** about dirt bike riding.*
*My dog is **frightened** by thunder.*
*She feels **relaxed** after her yoga class.*
*The **satisfied** diners left a large tip.*
*We are **surprised** to see you this early!*
*The **terrified** child seemed lost.*
*She was **tired** after eight hours of job hunting.*

These -ing adjectives describe things or situations

Quite a few adjectives end in *-ing*. They are also called participles (or present participles), and they, too, describe a noun or pronoun. (Other *-ing* words are actually gerunds, *-ing* nouns that name activities like *waiting* or *riding*. Learn more about [gerunds](#) here.) The *-ing* adjectives below describe things—in some cases things that are activities, like *job hunting* or *being lost*.

*His jokes were **amusing**.*
*Waiting for the bus is **boring**.*
*Your directions were **confusing**.*
*My run is always **energizing**.*
*Dirt bike riding is **exciting**.*
*Thunder can be **frightening**.*
*Her yoga class is **relaxing**.*
*Dinner was **satisfying**.*
*Your early arrival is **surprising**!*
*Being lost is **terrifying**.*
*Job hunting is **tiring**.*

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