

Verbal Adverbs (Gerunds) and Verbal Adjectives (Participles) in a nutshell

At this point, you only need to be aware that these parts of speech exist; it would be good to try to start recognizing them and distinguishing between them. You do not need to form them yourselves (and—with the exception of short-form past passive participles—rarely will use them in everyday speech).

Verbal Adverbs

Imperfective: these convey simultaneous action: “while doing something...”

Formation: remove the last 2 letters of the third-person plural form (они) and add –я :

читают > читая “while reading”

смотрят > смотря “while watching”

Смотря телевизор, он говорил по телефону.

Perfective: these convey action that has been completed before another action begins: “having done something...”

Formation: remove the –ть from the infinitive and add –в :

прочита|ть > прочитав “having read”

заплати|ть > заплатив “having paid”

Заплатив за билеты, мы вошли в кинотеатр.

Participles

Present active: “[which/who is/are] ____ing” -щий (and all declined forms)

Past active imperfective: “[which/who was/were] ____ing” -вший (and all declined forms)

Past active perfective: “which/who ____ed”

Present passive: “which/who is/are being ____ed” -имый/емый (and all declined forms)

Past passive: “which/who was/were ____ed” -нный (and all declined forms)

-тый (and all declined forms)

Short-form past passive participles: predicate position: “is/are/was/were ____ed.”

Note: the agent (e.g. the person performing the action) in passive participle phrases goes into the instrumental case.

Студенты, изучающие русский язык, очень умные и интересные.

Женщина, написавшая это письмо, не говорит по-русски.

Преподаватель, любимый всеми студентами, пойдёт на пенсию.

Билеты, купленные Иваном, не очень хорошие.

Фёдор Карамазов был убит сыном.