

## Verb Lesson 12. The Present Participle; Constructions With *En* and *Après*

### PRESENT PARTICIPLE

The present participle, ending in *-ing* in English, ends in *-ant* in French.

Sa sœur, <i>étant</i> fatiguée, ne l'a pas accompagnée.	Her sister, being tired, did not go with her.
<i>Ayant</i> parlé, je me suis assis.	Having spoken, I sat down.
Le Père Noël y est arrivé, <i>portant</i> de beaux cadeaux.	Santa Claus arrived there, carrying beautiful presents.

The French stem is similar to that of the "nous" form of the present tense. For example:

INFINITIVE	"nous" FORM	PRESENT PARTICIPLE
bâtir	bâtissons	<i>bâtissant</i> , building
commencer	commençons	<i>commençant</i> , beginning
devoir	devons	<i>deyant</i> , owing
faire	faisons	<i>faisant</i> , doing
lire	lisons	<i>lisant</i> , reading
plaindre	plaignons	<i>plaignant</i> , pitying

Verbs with irregular present participles are:

avoir, <i>ayant</i> , having	être, <i>étant</i> , being	savoir, <i>sachant</i> , knowing
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When the French present participle is used as an adjective, it agrees in gender and number with the noun or pronoun it modifies.

Henri a raconté une anecdote <i>amusante</i> .	Henry told an amusing anecdote.
Vous faites des progrès <i>étonnants</i> .	You are making amazing progress.
Elles sont tout à fait <i>charmantes</i> .	They are quite charming.

### EN + THE PRESENT PARTICIPLE

The preposition *en* (*while, by, in, on, upon*) is followed by the present participle.

Il lisait le journal <i>en s'habillant</i> .	He was reading the newspaper while dressing.
<i>En voyageant</i> , on apprend beaucoup.	By traveling, you learn a great deal.
<i>En entendant</i> le tonnerre, j'ai regardé par la fenêtre.	On hearing the thunder, I looked out the window.

The word *tout* is sometimes used with *en* and the present participle to add emphasis. It may be omitted in English or translated by *still*.

Il a disparu <i>tout en courant</i> .	He disappeared while (still) running.
<i>Tout en travaillant</i> , elle tomba malade.	While (still) working, she took sick.

### APRÈS + THE PAST INFINITIVE

The preposition *après* (*after*) is followed by the past infinitive, that is, the infinitive of *avoir* or *être* plus the past participle.

<i>Après avoir dîné</i> , ils faisaient une promenade.	After dining, they used to take a walk.
<i>Après les avoir achetés</i> , il l'a regretté.	After buying them, he was sorry.
<i>Après y être restées</i> longtemps, elles ont décidé de partir.	After staying there for a long time, they decided to leave.
<i>Après nous être reposés</i> , nous dînerons.	After resting, we will have dinner.

*Note:* Past participles in this construction follow the regular rules for agreement. (See Verb Lesson 9.)