**Participles** are verb forms that act as adjectives.

In the English language, we have 2 participles: present and past.

**Present:** “ing” form of the verb  
*Example:* The mean dog…  
The menacing dog…  
The snarling dog…

**Past:** “ed/en” form of the verb  
*Example:* The mean dog…  
The untamed dog…  
The chosen dog…

**Participle Phrases** are phrases that begin with a verb form and are used to modify nouns and pronouns.

**Dangling Participle** is the name given to a participial phrase that is misplaced and has the effect of modifying the wrong noun or pronoun.

The following are examples of dangling modifiers:

**Incorrect:** Flying over the mountain tops, the cattle could be seen.

*This participial phrase is “dangling” because it makes it seem as though “the cattle” are doing the “flying.”*

**Correct:** Flying over the mountain tops, we could see the cattle.

**Incorrect:** Low in the water and loaded with cargo, the sailors thought the tiny ship would sink.

*This participial phrase is “dangling” because it makes it seem as though “the sailors” are doing the “low” and “loaded.”*

**Correct:** Low in the water and loaded with cargo, the tiny ship looked as though it would sink.
**Dangling Participle Exercises**  
*By: Nancy Armstrong*

*Directions:* Rewrite each of the following sentences to correct the dangling participles.

1. Blown away by the storm, the family could not find the roof to their house.
2. Climbing to the top of the hill, the view was spectacular.
3. Saddened by the news, a condolence card was sent to Fatima by her co-workers.
4. Rushing to get to the bank before 6pm, the right tire on Tom’s car blew out.
5. Sleeping with the window open, my throat was sore the next day.
6. Arguing with the teacher, the test was failed by Carol.
7. Beaten down by the weather, the farmer could not save his crops.
8. Painting by the morning light, the masterpiece was completed in record time.
9. Grading the exams, my vision became to blurry.
10. Walking through the hot desert, a new and unusual cave was found by the explorer.
11. Searching under her bed for her term paper, an old piece of pizza was found by Clara.
12. Talking on her cell phone and driving at the same time, the cop gave Joi a ticket.
13. Warned about the bad weather conditions, the honeymoon cruise was planned anyway by the stubborn couple.
14. Annoyed with her little brother’s constant teasing, the door to her room was barricading so Roli could not enter.
15. Visiting her grandmother, Dulce’s favorite brownies were waiting for her on the kitchen table.