

Participial Phrases

A **participial phrase** contains a participle and other accompanying words. A participial phrase can be used to modify a subject.

Carrying their leaves, the ants made their way to the nest.

Thinking Question

Which phrase contains a participle that tells about a subject?

underline the participial phrase in each sentence. Circle the subject it modifies.

1. Working hard, the little black ants dig their tunnels.
2. Piling the bits of dirt, the ants build a hill around the tunnel entrance.
3. An intruding red ant climbs the hill.
4. The black ants, dropping dirt from their jaws, hurry to defend their territory.
5. Outnumbered, the red ant scurries back down the hill.
6. Chasing it far away, the black ants show that the red ant is not welcome.
7. Returning to their work, the ants look triumphant.
8. Committed to their project, the ants begin digging again.