

Past participles as adjectives

In English Verbs have a form called the **past participle**, which can be used as an adjective. You can use it to describe a condition resulting from the action of the verb.

VERB

I **sprained** my ankle.
She **broke** her arm.

PAST PARTICIPLE

I have a **sprained** ankle.
Her arm is **broken**.

Many past participles, like **sprained**, have the same form as the past tense of the verb. Irregular verbs like **break** often have a different form: **broken** rather than **broke**, and so on. In either case, the past participle always describes a noun, whereas the past tense verb has a subject.

He **overcooked** the vegetables. His vegetables are **overcooked**.

A Circle the past participle in each sentence and underline the noun it refers to.

1. The library is closed right now.
2. Your Spanish skills are much improved!
3. His arm is broken in two places.
4. The town was quarantined due to the outbreak of a mysterious disease.
5. After so much hard work, my hands are swollen.
6. Don't worry, all the hardest work is done.
7. Luz and Majo are all dressed up and ready to go out.

In Spanish The **past participle** can also be used as an adjective. It must therefore agree in gender and number with the noun it modifies. It *always* has a different form from the **preterite** tense.

PRETERITE

Me rompí el brazo.
Se quemó las manos.

PAST PARTICIPLE

Tengo el brazo **roto**.
Tiene las manos **quemadas**.

To form the **past participle** of regular verbs, replace the **-ar** ending of infinitives with **-ado**, and the **-er** and **-ir** endings with **-ido**. Some past participles are irregular.

hinchar	→	hinchado	torcer	→	torcido
lavar	→	lavado	herir	→	herido
romper	→	roto	abrir	→	abierto

B Circle the past participle in each sentence and underline the noun it refers to.

1. Tengo las manos hinchadas de tanto trabajar.
2. No está durmiendo: tiene los ojos abiertos.

PAST PARTICIPLES AS ADJECTIVES

3. No se puede usar ese reloj porque está roto.
4. Hipólito tiene el dedo infectado.
5. Los entrenadores están encantados de poder ayudarte.
6. Mi amiga se cayó al suelo y ahora está herida.
7. La señora se rompió las muñecas y ahora las tiene vendadas.
8. Me duele el codo, porque lo tengo lastimado.

C Your friend wants to help you get ready for the party, but everything's already done. Write an appropriate answer using a past participle.

1. ¿Tengo que preparar la comida?

No, ya la tengo preparada.

2. ¿Corto las verduras?

3. ¿Debo abrir las ventanas?

4. ¿Puedo cocinar un pastel?

5. ¿Cuelgo las decoraciones?

6. ¿Qué tal si decoro el salón?

7. ¿Puedo servir la bebida?

D Compare the following sentences:

a. *His eyes are green.* Tiene los ojos verdes.

b. *My feet are swollen.* Tengo los pies hinchados.

In these sentences, Spanish uses definite articles where English requires possessive adjectives. What else in the Spanish sentences makes it clear *whose* eyes and *whose* feet are being referred to?

