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
- lavar → lavado
- romper → roto

- torcer → torcido
- herir → herido
- 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 vencidas.
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?