

Partizip I

The form of the German verb called *Partizip I* (present participle) is a non-conjugated form of the verb. Partizip I is used as an adjective or adverb. It is not used as a verb or noun. In German, Partizip I is roughly equivalent to the *-ing* form of English verbs.

EXAMPLES OF ENGLISH PRESENT PARTICIPLES:

a fast running motor
the burning leaves
many laughing children

gracefully flowing gowns
some slow growing trees
several hard working people

PARTIZIP I IS FORMED by taking the stem of a German verb and adding the letters *-nd* or *-end* to the stem. The German *-nd* or *-end* is the equivalent to the English suffix *-ing* on the stem of a verb.

Examples of German Partizip I:

german infinitive	verb stem	participle marker	partizip i	english equivalent
laufen	lauf	+ end	laufend	running
stinken	stink	+ end	stinkend	stinking
lachen	lach	+ end	lachend	laughing
sein	sei	+ end	seiend	being
tun	tu	+ end	tuend	doing
knistern	knister	+ nd	knisternd	crackling
flustern	fluster	+ nd	flustern	whispering

PARTIZIP I IS AN ADJECTIVE and must normally be followed by a noun. Partizip I as an adjective must take adjectival endings. Examine the following example German sentences with Partizip I and note the adjective endings. Partizip I is used as an attributive adjective, which means it is placed to the left of the noun it describes.

Auf der Hütte gibt es laufendes Wasser.
Der stinkende Müll wird den Nachbarn stören.
Der Clown hat die lachenden Gäste lange unterhalten.
Herr Reinert ist ein wohlhabender Mensch.
Wir saßen neben dem knisternden Feuer.

*Up at the cabin, there is running water.
The stinking garbage will bother the neighbor.
The clown entertained the laughing guests for a long time.
Mr. Reinert is a well-to-do person. (lit. "well having")
We were sitting next to the crackling fire.*

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ENGLISH AND GERMAN

VERBS: German simply conjugates the verb (never using Partizip I):

Herr Gratz kommt heute Abend zu uns.
Jemand hat im Park gesungen.
Wir werden auf dich im Bahnhof warten.

VERBS: English uses the present participle in verb conjugations:

Mr. Gratz is coming to our house tonight.
Someone was singing in the park.
We will be waiting for you inside the train station.

NOUNS: German uses the *infinitive* as a neuter noun (never Partizip I).

Das Rudern ist mein Lieblingssport.
Hörst du das Quietschen?
Bei dem Schreien können wir nicht schlafen.

NOUNS: English uses the *-ing* form of the verb as a noun.

Rowing is my favorite sport.
Can you hear that squeaking?
We can't sleep with that screaming going on.