

Grammar - Understanding -ing and -ed Adjectives

Some adjectives in English are made from verbs. These include adjectives that end in **-ing** and **-ed**. They look similar but have different meanings and uses. This lesson explains how they work and how to use them correctly.

Point 1: -ing adjectives

Adjectives with **"-ing"** endings are agents of the action. The subject creates the feeling.

1. The movie was **exciting**.
2. The villain's voice was **annoying**.
3. The hike was **exhausting**.
4. The views were **breathtaking** and **stunning**.
5. The book was **captivating** and **uplifting**.
6. The story was **confusing**.
7. That trail was **frightening** and **challenging**.

Point 2: -ed adjectives

Adjectives with **"-ed"** endings are recipient of the action. The subjects receive the actions or feel them. They do not create the feeling.

1. I was **confused** during the movie.
2. I was **bored** most of the time.
3. Our waiter looked **annoyed**.
4. I left feeling **disappointed** and **dissatisfied**.
5. I was **exhausted** at the end of the hike.
6. I was **frightened** on the trail.
7. I was **surprised** by the ending.
8. I felt **satisfied** with the result.

Point 3: -ing/-ed adjectives reflect the action of a verb

Many -ing and -ed adjectives come from verbs. Often, you can express the same situation in three different forms:

- **The movie was boring.**
 - → Using an **-ing adjective** to describe the thing (the cause)
- **The movie bored me.**
 - → Using the **active verb** directly
- **I was bored by the movie.**
 - → Using an **-ed adjective** with passive structure (the effect)

Here are more examples of this pattern:

1. The trail was **frightening**.
2. The trail **frightened** me.
3. I was **frightened** by the trail.

1. The ending was **disappointing**.
2. The ending **disappointed** us.
3. We were **disappointed** by the ending.

1. The lecture was **interesting**.
2. The lecture **interested** them.
3. They were **interested** in the lecture.

Point 4: These adjectives often describe feelings and reactions

These forms are common when talking about movies, books, events, weather, or personal experiences.

1. The hike was **exhausting**, but I was **satisfied** in the end.
2. The story was **confusing**, and I was **frustrated**.
3. The waiter was **annoyed**, and I felt **uncomfortable**.

Adjectives with -ed vs. -ing

Watch video using **active and passive adjectives** in four conversations.

Conversation 1 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: Have you seen the new Superman movie?

Woman: Yes, I have. It was so **exciting**! I loved the fight scenes. The special effects were **amazing**.

Man: Really? I didn't like it. I thought it was slow, and the story was **confusing**.

Woman: I was a little **confused**, too, but I was **entertained** until the end.

Man: Not me. I was bored most of the movie. I also didn't like villain. His voice was **annoying**. He talked funny.

Woman: Hmm, I didn't notice that. I thought for a villain he was pretty **convincing**.

Conversation 2 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: How was the food at the new Italian restaurant?

Woman: The pasta was delicious, but the service was terrible.

Man: How so? Was the service slow?

Woman: Yes, and our waiter looked **annoyed** every time we asked for something.

Man: That's too bad. It's always **disappointing** to get bad service like that.

Woman: Yeah, I left feeling **dissatisfied**, even though the food was good.

Conversation 3 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: How was the hike yesterday?

Woman: It was **exhausting**, but the views were **brehtaking**. I've never seen anything so **stunning**.

Man: Wow! That's cool! I heard the trail was **challenging**, and a bit **frightening** at spots, but worth the trek.

Woman: It was **scary** in places, and tiring, but it was **rewarding** in the end.

Man: Did you take any pictures?

Woman: No, but my friend did. I can show you them once he posts them.

Man: Oh, I'd like that. I'm **excited** to see them.

Conversation 4 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Woman: Have you finished reading the novel for English class?

Man: Yes, it was so **captivating**. I couldn't put it down. I loved it.

Woman: Really? It was not my cup of tea. I was **disappointed** with the ending. I was **surprised** the book ended the way it did.

Man: Oh, really? I loved the ending. I found it really **uplifting**. I love a happy ending.

Woman: I do, too, normally, but I thought it was too cheesy. It just didn't satisfy me.

Quiz

Answer these questions about the interview.

1) What was amazing about the movie?

- a) The acting
- b) The opening scene
- c) The special effects**

2) What was terrible about the restaurant?

- a) The food**
- b) The service
- c) The location

3) What was frightening?

- a) The trail**
- b) The animals
- c) The weather

4) How did the book make the woman feel?

- a) Ashamed
- b) Captivated
- c) **Disappointed**

Interviews for Recruiters and Candidates

5. [Where do you see yourself in five years?](#)

Tips: Hiring and turnover are costly. When you're applying, responsible leaders are looking to **ensure that your goals and plans align with the company's visions and career paths**. The best way to answer this question is to clearly understand your [long-term development goals](#) and how this position can help you achieve them.

Example Answer:

In five years, I hope to become an industry expert that inspires school-aged kids from all backgrounds to pursue an engineering career. Ideally, I'd love to use this role as a platform to learn and grow to become a company leader where I can mentor new team members. As I mentioned previously, the company's culture and mission statement align closely with my values, and in five years, I'm hoping to be here, growing my career.

6. [Why are you looking for a new role?](#)

Tips: Don't air all of your dirty laundry here. You want to steer away from focusing on any negative aspects of your current role. Instead, **focus on [why you're excited about the new job](#) and how it fits into your career path**. Compare the two companies if you can find a way to do so that doesn't sound like you're throwing your current company under the bus.

Example Answer:

I'm looking for a new role because I want to pursue an opportunity that will help me expand my skill set and build upon what I've learned so far. The company I work for has a well-established senior team, so there's less room for growth. One of the things I love about my current job is the ability to impact small business success with efficient web

design. This position is the perfect combination. I'll have the chance to challenge myself in a new way while working more closely with the customer to bring their vision to life.

7. [What motivates you on a daily basis?](#)

Tips: Employers are looking to **ensure that [your intrinsic motivations align with long-term company values and goals](#)**. If your motivation is a specific benefit or salary range, that will wear off at some point, and your job performance will suffer. On the other hand, if you're passionate about the mission or find the duties creative and challenging, you're more likely to be a consistently high-performing employee.

Example Answer:

As a care advocate, I am passionate about helping patients navigate the complicated insurance and medical system. On a personal level, I've seen the devastating impact that occurs when patients postpone routine care. I look forward to the ability to personally support others' health in positive ways.

8. [Why are you the best candidate for this role?](#)

Tips: This question can feel like you're walking a tightrope. You don't know the other candidates and don't want to sound arrogant by saying you're the best. But on the other hand, you need to [communicate your confidence and job fit](#). The solution is rooted in your research and **reframing your response into one that shows you're uniquely qualified**. You can tie in previous experiences and skill sets with the job duties to highlight your excellent fit.

Example Answer:

What makes me uniquely qualified for the role is my experience leading a high-performing sales team at a larger agency. We consistently led the company and exceeded our goals. Not only that, but we had exceptional customer service reviews with a high ratio of returning customers. Blending that experience with my time spent mentoring new team members makes me an excellent fit for this role.