4.1 PRINCIPAL PARTS OF VERBS

Verbs show action or state of being.

We read several Mexican folktales. (action)

Folktales are traditional stories of a people. (state of being)

The principal parts of a verb are the **base form,** the **past,** and the **past participle.** A fourth part, the **present participle,** is formed by adding *-ing* to the base form of the verb. Participles have three functions in sentences. They can be part of a verb phrase, or they can function as an adjective or a noun.

BASE	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE	PRESENT PARTICIPLE
talk	talked	talked	talking

Regular verbs, such as *talk*, form the past and past participle by adding *-d* or *-ed* to the base form. Irregular verbs, such as the ones below, do not form the past and past participle in this way. If you are unsure of the principal parts of a verb, check a dictionary.

BASE	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE	PRESENT PARTICIPLE
hide	hid	hid	hiding
freeze	froze	frozen	freezing

A **verb phrase** is two or more verbs that work together as a unit. A verb phrase may have one or more **auxiliary verbs** and a **main verb.**

One folktale is called "The Legend of the Volcanoes."

In the sentence above, the main verb is the past participle *called*, and the auxiliary verb *is* is a form of the verb *be*. Note that the past participle is often used with auxiliary verbs, but the past stands alone.

Common auxiliary verbs are *be* and *have* and their various forms, as well as *do* and *did*. Other auxiliary verbs include *can, may, might, should, could*, and *will*.

HIGHLIGHT OR UNDERLINE
the important information in the text.

THINK IT THROUGH
How will you remember what you just learned? Write or draw your ideas.

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EXERCISE 1 **Underline the main verb or verbs in each sentence. Double underline any auxiliary verbs that are used with a main verb to make a verb phrase.**

1. The most famous volcano in Mexico is called Popocatépetl.
2. Its name means "smoking mountain."
3. The volcano has been mostly active for hundreds of years.
4. It lies close to Mexico City.
5. According to Aztec legends, this volcano was once a warrior who had been transformed into a volcano.
6. Kilauea, the earth's most active volcano, is located in Hawaii.
7. It is the youngest volcano on the big island of Hawaii.
8. This volcano has erupted almost continuously for decades!
9. There are many legends about why Kilauea erupts.

EXERCISE 2 **Underline each verb or verb phrase. On the line, write whether each main verb is in the past form or the past participle form.**

1. According to legend, an ancient ruler and his wife had a beautiful baby. _____
2. The daughter was named Iztaccíhuatl. _____
3. When she grew up, she fell in love with a warrior, Popoca. _____
4. Popoca was called to battle. _____
5. The king had promised Popoca his daughter's hand in marriage for a victory. _____
6. A false message came to the king that Popoca had been lost in battle. _____
7. When Iztaccíhuatl heard the news, she fainted with sadness and did not wake. _____
8. When Popoca arrived home, he learned of Iztaccíhuatl's fate. _____
9. He carried Iztaccíhuatl to the top of a mountain. _____
10. According to legend, both were transformed into volcanoes. _____
11. Have you noticed his name within the name of the volcano Popocatépetl? _____



APPLY IT NOW

Write about a folktale, legend, or story you know. Use each of the four verb forms at least once, and label them accordingly.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

SCAN FOR MORE PRACTICE.

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