

# Participial Phrases:

one way to increase sentence fluency while combining sentences  
an overhead resource from WritingFix

If you ever have two action-packed sentences that share the same subject, like:

**The child skipped all the way home.  
He smiled as he remembered his wonderful day.**

You can combine these two sentences by turning one of the sentences into a participial phrase. Here are three different ways you could do this with the above two sentences. Be sure you notice the commas!

- **Skipping all the way home, the child smiled as he remembered his wonderful day.**
  - **The child, smiling as he remembered his wonderful day, skipped all the way home.**
  - **The child skipped all the way home, smiling and remembering his wonderful day.**
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Work with a partner, and find several ways to combine the following sets of sentences by using participial phrases. Write your favorite one down and put the comma(s) in the right places.

**The tiny little dog yipped at the package delivery man.  
The dog scratched at the gravel that lined the fence.**

**Saint Nick sat in his upholstered chair at the mall.  
He waved and smiled at the children who walked by.**

**The student waved his hand wildly in the air at the assembly.  
The student tried to get the guest speaker's attention.**