

Adjectives ending in '-ed' and '-ing'

Do you know the difference between bored and boring?

Look at these examples to see how adjectives ending in -ed and -ing are used.

- I was really bored in that presentation.
- That was a really boring presentation.

Grammar explanation

Adjectives that end in -ed (e.g. bored, interested) and adjectives that end in -ing (e.g. boring, interesting) are often confused.

-ed adjectives

Adjectives that end in -ed generally describe emotions – they tell us how people feel.

- I was so bored in that lesson, I almost fell asleep.
- He was surprised to see Helen after all those years.
- She was really tired and went to bed early.

-ing adjectives

Adjectives that end in -ing generally describe the thing that causes the emotion – a boring lesson makes you feel bored.

- Have you seen that film? It's really frightening.
- I could listen to her for hours. She's so interesting.
- I can't sleep! That noise is really annoying!

Here are some adjectives that can have both an -ed and an -ing form.

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| <i>annoyed</i> | <i>annoying</i> |
| <i>bored</i> | <i>boring</i> |
| <i>confused</i> | <i>confusing</i> |
| <i>disappointed</i> | <i>disappointing</i> |
| <i>excited</i> | <i>exciting</i> |
| <i>frightened</i> | <i>frightening</i> |
| <i>interested</i> | <i>interesting</i> |
| <i>surprised</i> | <i>surprising</i> |
| <i>tired</i> | <i>tiring</i> |
| <i>worried</i> | <i>worrying</i> |