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



Do you know the difference between *bored* and *boring*? Test what you know with interactive exercises and read the explanation to help you.

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.*

Try this exercise to test your grammar.

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.

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