Pretest

Circle the best answer.

1. Low TOEFL scores are (disappointing) (disappointed) to test takers.
2. (Scary) (Scared) hikers called for help when they lost their way in the woods.
3. Gelato is a (delightful) (delighted) dessert from Italy.
4. The town fire department had the (overwhelming) (overwhelmed) task of extinguishing a three-alarm fire.
5. People are (surprising) (surprised) that Saudi Arabia has such a small population in relation to its land size.

Explanation

Forming Adjectives with -ing and -ed

In English, some adjectives are formed by adding -ing or -ed to the verb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>-ing</th>
<th>-ed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>excite</td>
<td>exciting</td>
<td>excited</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

-ing

Adjectives with the suffix -ing characterize or describe the entity they refer to.

- Our trip to Boston was interesting.
- This year the School of Dance faculty has admitted some exciting young dancers.
- Some of the historical details the speaker included were boring.

Here, the trip to Boston is described as interesting, the dancers are characterized as exciting, and some of the historical details are considered boring.

The suffix -ing is related to cause. For example, if something is boring, it causes boredom. If it is pleasing, it causes pleasure.
-ed
The suffix -ed, on the other hand, describes the effect that a person, a place, a situation, an event, etc. has on someone.

We were interested in the history of Boston.
The School of Dance faculty is excited about some new young dancers.
The listeners were bored with the historical details of the speech.

The history of Boston interests us; the young dancers excite the faculty; the historical details bore us.

Compare the following two sentences.

John is boring.
John is bored.

In the first sentence, boring characterizes John. He bores people. In the second sentence, bored is how John feels. Something such as piano practice or a slow football game has affected him and made him bored.

Mistakes Using -ing and -ed
The following sentences are incorrect because they do not express the meaning the speaker wishes to convey.

The New Yorker magazine has some amusing cartoons. (The readers are amused by the cartoons.)

We were surprised to find arrowheads near the river. (The arrowheads were a surprising find.)

Dracula and Frankenstein are frightening film characters. (The audience feels frightened, not Dracula or Frankenstein.)

The staff is disappointing because they didn’t receive a raise. (Not receiving the raise is disappointing.)

Common Adjectives ending in -ing and -ed
The following is a partial list of adjectives that end in -ing and -ed. Notice the exceptions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-ing</th>
<th>-ed</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>amusing</td>
<td>amused</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>boring</td>
<td>bored</td>
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<tr>
<td>charming</td>
<td>charmed</td>
<td></td>
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<td>frightened</td>
<td>frightened</td>
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<td>disappointed</td>
<td>disappointed</td>
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<td>disgusting</td>
<td>disgusted</td>
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<tr>
<td>exciting</td>
<td>excited</td>
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<tr>
<td>delightful</td>
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<tr>
<td>interested</td>
<td>interested</td>
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<td>overwhelmed</td>
<td>overwhelmed</td>
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<tr>
<td>pleasing</td>
<td>pleased</td>
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<td>scared</td>
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<td>scary</td>
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<tr>
<td>shocking</td>
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<tr>
<td>surprising</td>
<td>surprised</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>threatening</td>
<td>threatened</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Practice

Exercise
Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. "Do you think Margaret will take one of your new kittens?"
   "I don’t know. She seemed ____________ in them, however."
   a. to be interest    c. interested
   b. interesting       d. interestingly

2. "I hear you went to the circus yesterday."
   "Yes. It was really ____________ ."
   a. amused            c. amusement
   b. amusing           d. amusingly

3. "I’m ____________ that Chris couldn’t come to the party."
   "She’s got a bad cold."
   a. disappointing     c. disappoint
   b. disappointment    d. disappointed

4. "How did you like the musical?"
   "I thought it was ____________ ."
   a. delightful        c. delight
   b. delighting        d. delighted

5. "We were very ____________ to hear that you got the scholarship!"
   "Thank you. It was really a surprise."
   a. pleasing          c. pleasingly
   b. pleased           d. please

6. "Professor Adams’s class is the best I’ve ever been to."
   "I think it’s ____________ ."
   a. the most boring    c. the most bored
   b. the most boredom  d. most bored

7. "Jim’s getting married, and he’s only twenty."
   "Yes. It’s really ____________ that he would get married so soon."
   a. surprised         c. surprising
   b. surprisingly      d. surprise

8. "This handmade cloth is beautiful."
   "It’s ____________ to see such quality."
   a. pleasing          c. pleased
   b. to please         d. pleasure
9. “How does Monica like her new scooter?”
   “She’s __________ with it.”
   a. delighted           c. delight
   b. delighting          d. delightful

10. “You look nervous.”
    “This thunder makes me __________.”
    a. scary              c. scaring
    b. scare              d. scared

**Final Test**

Study the following sentences. Decide if the italicized portion of the sentence is *correct* (C) or *incorrect* (I). Circle your answer.

1. They are *frightened* statistics about the number of animals that are nearly extinct.  C  I
2. Persons *interested* in enrolling in night courses should contact their local school district.  C  I
3. Charlie Chaplin was well known for the *amusing* characters he portrayed.  C  I
4. During the long, *bored* winters pioneer women took up such activities as sewing and candle making.  C  I
5. Remarks that children make can be shocking and *delighting*.  C  I
Circle the italicized portion of the item that is incorrect.

1. The condor, alike other members of the vulture family, has no feathers on its head.
2. The canoe trip was exciting until we tipped over. Then we were scary and didn't enjoy ourselves.
3. In recent years, Mexico City has experienced the most great increase in population of any major city in North America.
4. This year the judges awarded the blue ribbon for the bestest apple pie in the county fair to Colleen Murphy.
5. More as twenty million dollars is donated yearly to local charities in this area.
6. Even though men are physically stronger than women, they are less healthier and die younger.
7. Giraffes, the tallest animals in the world, measure more or less as same height as a one-story building.
8. New York City is an excited place to visit; however, many tourists are overwhelmed by its size.
9. Some people think animated films are terribly boring. Whereas, others are charmed by them.
10. Academic English prepares students for demanding university studies; workplace English, in the other hand, is useful for workers who speak English frequently on the job.