

Verb Fabrication

He was site testing the equipment.
The equipment was site tested.

He was flame cutting the pedestal.
The pedestal was flame cut.

He was cold sawing the parts.
The end was cold sawn.

New, more specific, verbs are fabricated out of an existing verb and a property. We couldn't hope to have all these specialised verbs – participles, tenses and the like, so we have to recognise them when they appear.

If we find a verb auxiliary, an adjective or noun, and a participle, we go looking for a property that would allow verb fabrication.

He was site testing the equipment.

ToTest has a location – it is a child of the locations for Site, Workshop, Bench. We swallow “site”, making the relation have that location, so the sentence becomes

He was testing (on site) the equipment.

There is already a mechanism for cutting out an adverb and making it a modifier of the relation – we can use the same mechanism by turning “site” into an adverbial phrase.

He was flame cutting the pedestal.

Many relations carry a ToUse relation – the things that are used in that relation. ToTest uses tools, equipment (“test equipment”), procedures, plans (so we know what a “test plan” is). The sentence becomes

He was flame cutting the pedestal.

ToCut uses various things to cut - knife, laser, flame. We swallow “flame”, making the particular “cut” relation use “flame” and not the others. Now we are back to the generic verb, and have all its components available. The sentence becomes

He was cutting (using flame) the pedestal.

He was cold sawing the parts.

ToSaw uses various things to saw – one of them is a cold saw. We see that the object has a name which includes the action, and it would not be reasonable to say

He was cold saw sawing the parts.

We swallow the word “cold”, and make the relation use “cold saw”.

We need to ignore

The flame cutting the rope

But catch

The flame cutting of the steel.

The flame cutting the man was waiting for was not yet completed.

Forms in which the fabricated verb can appear:

The site tested equipment was damaged.

He thought the site tested equipment. (not an example)

He will site test the equipment.

He will begin site testing the equipment.

He wanted to site test the equipment.

He wanted to begin site testing the equipment.

The equipment shall be site tested

The equipment was being site tested.

Site testing was halted.

Any equipment site tested before last week needs to be retested. (ambiguous)

Another example of how semantics are tied up with grammar to handle assemblies of words.

This is part of a more general handling of participles.