

Participles

Chapter 10

Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Participles in Greek

Since a participle is a **verbal adjective**, Greek participles have the form of both a verb and an adjective.

Verb

Tense (present, aorist, perfect)

Voice (active, passive, middle)

Mood (participle)

Adjective

Gender, Case, Number

Participles

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3 Kinds of Participles

Because a participle is an adjective, it can be placed into one of the three adjectival positions.

Attributive

Substantive

Predicate

Those prepositions in the predicate position are **adverbial** and are never preceded by an article.

Adjectival Participles

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Attributive

Modifies an expressed noun (agreeing with it in gender, case, and number) and usually has a definite article.

ὁ πατήρ σου **ὁ βλέπων** ἐν τῷ κρυφαίῳ

your Father **who sees** in secret
(Matt 6:18).

Adjectival Participles

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Substantival

Usually has a definite article but becomes a virtual noun (substantive).

ἵνα πᾶς **ὁ πιστεύων** εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπόληται

So that everyone **who believes** in Him will not perish
(John 3:16).

Adverbial Participles

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Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Temporal

The **aorist** participle communicates **perfective aspect** (usually occurring before the action of the main verb).

καθαρισμὸν τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ποιησάμενος ἐκάθισεν

After making purification for sins, He sat down
(Heb 1:3).

Adverbial Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Temporal

The **present** participle communicates **imperfective aspect** (usually occurring contemporaneously with the action of the main verb).

παράγων εἶδεν ἄνθρωπον

As He was passing by, He saw a man
(John 9:1).

Adverbial Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Means

Answers the question “How?” the main verb was accomplished (add “by” or “by means of”).

ἀπόλουσαι τὰς ἁμαρτίας σου ἐπικαλεσάμενος τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ

wash away your sins **by calling on** His name
(Acts 22:16).

Adverbial Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Manner

Answers the question “How?” the main verb was performed and is often translated as an adverb.

ἐπορεύοντο χαίροντες

they went out . . . **rejoicing**
(Acts 5:41).

Adverbial Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Cause

Answers the question “Why?” providing the cause, reason, or grounds by which an action is accomplished (add “because,” “since,” or “for”).

καὶ τοῦτο πεπειθώς οἶδα ὅτι μενῶ

Since I am persuaded of this, I know that I will remain (Phil 1:25).

Adverbial Participles

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Condition

The participial phrase functions as the protasis ("if" clause) of a conditional statement (add "if").

οὐδὲν ἀπόβλητον μετὰ εὐχαριστίας **λαμβάνόμενον**

nothing should be rejected **if it is received**
with thanksgiving (1 Tim 4:4).

Adverbial Participles

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Concession

The action of the main verb takes place in spite of the circumstances related to the participle (add "although," "even though," or "though").

τυφλὸς **ὢν** ἄρτι βλέπω

though I was blind, now I see
(John 9:25 ESV).

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Purpose

Indicates the purpose of the main verb's action (add "in order to," "so that," or "that").

νομικός τις ἀνέστη **ἐκπειράζων** αὐτὸν

an expert in the law stood up **to test** Him
(Luke 10:25).

Adverbial Participles

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Result

Indicates the *actual* result (and not merely the *intended* result) of the main's verb action (add "so that," "with the result that," or "that").

πατέρα ἴδιον ἔλεγεν τὸν θεὸν ἴσον ἑαυτὸν
ποιῶν τῷ θεῷ

He was even calling God His own Father, **[with the result of] making** Himself equal with God (John 5:18).

Verbal Participles

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Attendant Circumstance

Coordinate to the main verb, thus taking on the mood of this verb (whether ind, impv, or subj).

ἐγερθεῖς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον

Get up! Take the child
(Matt 2:13).

Verbal Participles

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Genitive Absolute

A special use of the adverbial participle that provides background information.

ταῦτα αὐτοῦ λαλοῦντος πολλοὶ ἐπίστευσαν

As He **was saying** these things, many believed
(John 8:30).

Verbal Participles

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Imperative

The participle functions independently as an imperative.

[αἱ] γυναῖκες, ὑποτασσόμεναι τοῖς ἰδίοις ἀνδράσιν

Wives . . . **submit yourselves** to your own husbands
(1 Pet 3:1).

Verbal Participles

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Pleonastic

A redundant expression usually employing ἀποκριθεὶς or λέγων.

ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Πέτρος εἶπεν αὐτῷ

Then Peter **replied** to Him
(Matt 15:15).

Verbal Participles

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Complementary

Completes the idea of another (main) verb, usually verbs of completion.

ὡς δὲ ἐπαύσατο λαλῶν

When He had finished **speaking**
(Luke 5:4).

Verbal Participles

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Indirect Discourse

A statement of what someone said. The participle will be in the accusative case and will be anarthrous.

πᾶν πνεῦμα δὲ ὁμολογεῖ Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν ἐν σαρκὶ
ἐληλυθότα ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ ἔστιν

Every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ **has come** in the flesh is from God (1 John 4:2).

Periphrastic Participles

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Present Periphrastic

Present of εἰμί + present ptc

οἱ ἄνδρες...εἰσὶν...διδάσκοντες τὸν λαόν

The men...**are**...**teaching** the people
(Acts 5:25).

Periphrastic Participles

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Imperfect Periphrastic

Imperfect of εἰμί [ἦμην] + present ptc

ἦν διδάσκων αὐτούς

He **was teaching** them
(Matt 7:29).

Periphrastic Participles

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Future Periphrastic

Future of εἰμί [ἔσομαι] + present ptc

ἔσεσθε γὰρ εἰς ἀέρα λαλοῦντες

For **you will be speaking** into the air
(1 Cor 14:9).

Periphrastic Participles

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Perfect Periphrastic

Present of εἰμί + perfect ptc

τῇ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε σεσφωσμένοι διὰ πίστεως

For by grace **you are saved** through faith
(Eph 2:8).

Periphrastic Participles

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Pluperfect Periphrastic

Imperfect of εἰμί [ἦμην] + perfect ptc

ἐπίστευσαν ὅσοι ἦσαν τεταγμένοι εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον

As many as **were appointed** to eternal life believed
(Acts 13:48).

Periphrastic Participles

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Future Perfect Periphrastic

Future of εἰμί [ἔσομαι] + perfect ptc

ὃ ἐὰν λύσῃς ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἔσται λελυμένος ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς

Whatever you loose on earth **shall have been loosed** in heaven (Matt 16:19 NASB).