

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.

Tense (present, aorist, perfect)

Verb

Voice (active, middle, passive)

Mood (participle)

Adjective

Gender, Case, Number

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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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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 δὲ ἐχθρὸς ὁ **σπείρας** αὐτά

and the enemy **who sowed** them
(Matt 13:39).

Adjectival Participles

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Substantival

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

ὁ **νικῶν** κληρονομήσει ταῦτα

The one **who conquers** will inherit these things
(Rev 21:7).

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Adverbial Participles

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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).

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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).

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Means

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

ἀπόλουσαι τὰς ἁμαρτίας σου **ἐπικαλεσάμενος** τὸ
ὄνομα αὐτοῦ

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

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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).

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Cause

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

ἡμεῖς δὲ ἡμέρας **ὄντες** νήφωμεν

But **since we are** of the day, we must be sober
(1 Thess 5:8 NASB).

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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).

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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”).

ὃς ἐληλύθει προσκυνήσων εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ

He had come **to worship** in Jerusalem (Acts 8:27).

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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”).

ἵνα ᾗτε τέλειοι καὶ ὁλόκληροι ἐν μηδενὶ λειπόμενοι

so that you may be mature and complete, **[and as a result] lacking** nothing (James 1:4).

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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).

ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον

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

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Genitive Absolute

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

Καθημένους δὲ αὐτοῦ ... προσῆλθον αὐτῷ οἱ μαθηταί

While he was sitting ... the disciples approached him
(Matt 24:3).

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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).

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Pleonastic

A redundant expression usually employing ἀποκριθεὶς or λέγων.

ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Πέτρος εἶπεν αὐτῷ

But Peter said to him
(Matt 15:15 ESV).

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Complementary

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

ὥς δὲ ἐπαύσατο λαλῶν

When he had finished speaking
(Luke 5:4).

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Indirect Discourse

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

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

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

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Periphrastic Participles

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Present Periphrastic

Present of εἰμί + present ptc

οἱ ἄνδρες...**εἰσιν**...**διδάσκοντες** τὸν λαόν

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

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Imperfect Periphrastic

Imperfect of εἰμί [ἦμην] + present ptc

ἦν διδάσκων αὐτούς

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

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Future Periphrastic

Future of εἰμί [ἔσομαι] + present ptc

καὶ **ἔσεσθε μισούμενοι** ὑπὸ πάντων διὰ τὸ ὄνομά μου

You **will be hated** by everyone because of my name
(Matt 10:22).

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Perfect Periphrastic

Present of εἰμί + perfect ptc

τῇ γὰρ χάριτί **ἐστε σεσωσμένοι** διὰ πίστεως

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

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Pluperfect Periphrastic

Imperfect of εἰμί [ἦμην] + perfect ptc

ἐπίστευσαν ὅσοι **ἦσαν τεταγμένοι** εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον

All who **were appointed** to eternal life believed
(Acts 13:48).

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Future Perfect Periphrastic

Future of εἰμί [ἔσομαι] + perfect ptc

ὃ ἐὰν λύσης ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς **ἔσται δελωμένος** ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς

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

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