

TYPES OF PARTICIPLES: SPECIAL MEANINGS & HOW TO IDENTIFY THEM

ATTRIBUTIVE PARTICIPLES

Clues to help you identify attributive participles:

- used with a noun and usually with an article
- hangs out in the attributive position
- sometimes used with an article but no noun (substantive)

Semantic possibilities:

- The participle can be used substantively with the article and without a noun: the man who x's, the woman who y's, the people who z.
- Can take an object

Examples:

οἱ φεύγοντες	<i>those who flee/are fleeing; the fugitives, the exiles</i>
ὁ διώκων and ὁ φεύγων	<i>the one who pursues and the one who flees: in a courtroom context, the prosecutor and the defendant</i>
ὁ ἄρχων	<i>the one who rules, originally a participle from ἄρχω (the ruling man), hence the ruler, so common that it is considered a noun.</i>
τὸ ἄρχον	<i>in the neuter, that which rules (the ruling thing can best be translated as the ruling party.)</i>
ἡ θανοῦσα	<i>the [woman who] died, the dead woman</i>
τὸ ὄν and τὰ ὄντα	<i>that which is/exists; those things which are/exist (lit. existing things) respectively; "the universe"</i>
τὰ πάροντα	<i>the present circumstances</i>
οἱ ἔχοντες and οἱ οὐκ ἔχοντες	<i>those who have and those who do not have (i.e., the rich and the poor, or the haves and the have-nots)</i>

CIRCUMSTANTIAL PARTICIPLES

Sub-types: temporal, causal, manner, means, conditional, concessive, purpose, description

Temporal: convey series of events and temporal relationships between multiple events in a compact, economic manner.

Clues – certain time words (temporal particles):

- ἅμα – at once, at the same time
- αὐτίκα – at once
- μεταξύ – in the midst of, while

Causal: convey causal relationships between multiple events

Clues – certain cause words (causal particles):

- ἄτε – “inasmuch as, seeing that, since”
- ὡς, ὥσπερ – “as if, as though, as thinking, on the grounds that” (but speaker/writer does not herself take credit for the veracity of the cause)

Manner/means: convey by what means or in what manner the main verb was enacted

No specific particles as clues; use context.

Conditional: The participial phrase acts like the protasis of a condition, but doesn't have εἰ. Nevertheless, you'll want to translate it with “if” followed by the relevant action that the participle conveys.

Clues:

- μή instead of οὐ as your negative (though you might not have or need a negative at all, so this only applies when there IS a negative)
- the main clause might have ἄν
- the participial phrase seems to convey a possibility rather than a real event

Genitive absolute: an isolated construction of participle + noun in the genitive case; can express any kind of circumstantial participial relationship

Clues:

- the participle and a noun/pronoun/substantive are in the genitive case
- doesn't agree with other words in the sentence; stands alone

SUPPLEMENTARY: completes action of the main verb

- can go with either the subject OR the object of the main verb

- found with verbs meaning *begin, continue, stop*, and with those meaning *repent, be weary, be pleased or displeased, allow*
- subtle differences in meaning from supplementary infinitives; supplementary participles imply actual “*verb-ing*”, whereas supplementary infinitives imply the possibility “*to-verb*”

αἰσχύνομαι	<i>I am ashamed</i>
αἰσχύνομαι λέγων / λέγουσα	<i>I am ashamed speaking, I speak with shame</i>
αἰσχύνομαι λέγειν	<i>I am ashamed to speak (and so, do not speak)</i>

Clues

- verbs meaning *begin, continue, stop*, and with those meaning *repent, be weary, be pleased or displeased, allow*
- τυγχάνω happen
- λανθάνω escape the notice of; trans. “unawares”
- φθάνω anticipate, come/do/be first or before

4. Translate.

1. τυγχάνομεν οὔσαι δίκαιαι γυναῖκες.
2. πράττοντες ἄδικα οὐκ ἐλάνθανον.
3. ἔφθασαν δῶρα ἐνεγκοῦσαι.
4. φθάνουσιν ἐκείνας φεύγοντες.
5. ἤρξατε βουλευόμενοι.
6. ταῦτα λέγοντες οὐκ αἰσχύνεσθε;