

# Adverbial (Circumstantial) Participles

## No Article

Reference: *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*, Wallace

- I. Temporal
  - A. Aorist Participle – *after, when*
    1. Normally *antecedent* in time to the action of the main verb, especially with present tense main verb.
      - a. The main exception is when the controlling verb is a *historical* present and the aorist participle is redundant.
      - b. Mark 3:33: καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς αὐτοῖς λέγει.
    2. May also be contemporaneous (or simultaneous).
      - a. Matthew 13:37: . . . ἀποκριθεὶς εἶπεν . . . – answering, he said
  - B. Present Participle – *while*
    1. Normally *contemporaneous* in time to the action of the main verb.
      - a. Especially so when it is related to a present tense main verb.
  - C. Future Participle – *use an infinitive*
    1. The future participle is used to describe what is “purposed, intended, or expected” in the future.
    2. See handout on Future Participles for the twelve examples that occur in the N.T.
  - D. Perfect Participle – *completed action*
    1. Almost always *antecedent* with reference to the main verb.
- II. Manner – *-ing*
  - A. Matt 19:22 ἀπῆλθεν λυπούμενος – he went away grieving
  - B. Acts 5:41 ἐπορεύοντο χαίροντες – they went on their way rejoicing
- III. Means – *by -ing*
  - A. Answers the question, *How?*
  - B. Matt 27:4 ἡμάρτον παραδοῦς αἷμα ἀθῶον – I have sinned by betraying innocent blood
  - C. Eph 1:20 ἦν ἐνήργησεν . . . ἐγείρας αὐτὸν ἐκ νεκρῶν – which he exercised . . . by raising him from the dead.
- IV. Cause – *because*
  - A. Indicates the *cause* or *reason* or *ground* of the action of the finite verb. This is a common usage.
  - B. Matt 1:19 Ἰωσήφ . . . δίκαιος ὢν – Joseph . . . because he was a righteous man
  - C. John 4:6 ὁ Ἰησοῦς κεκοπιακῶς . . . ἐκαθέζετο – Jesus, because he was wearied . . . he sat
- V. Condition – *if*
  - A. Almost always equivalent to the third class condition (usually representing some sense of uncertainty). This usage is fairly common.
  - B. Matt 21:22 πάντα ὅσα ἂν αἰτήσητε ἐν τῇ προσευχῇ πιστεύοντες λήμψεσθε – Whatever you ask for in prayer, if you believe, you will receive it.
  - C. 1 Tim 4:4 οὐδὲν ἀπόβλητον μετὰ εὐχαριστίας λαμβανόμενον – nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanks
- VI. Concession – *although*
  - A. Implies that the state or action of the *main verb* is true *in spite of* the state or action of the participle. This category is relatively common.
  - B. Mark 8:18 ὧτα ἔχοντες οὐκ ἀκούετε; – although you have ears, do you not hear?
  - C. Rom 1:21 γνόντες τὸν θεὸν οὐχ ὡς θεὸν ἐδόξασαν – although they knew God, they did not honor him as God
- VII. Purpose (Telic) – *infinitive*
  - A. Almost always this should be translated like an English *infinitive*. This usage is somewhat common.
  - B. Luke 10:25 νομικός τις ἀνέστη ἐκπειράζων αὐτὸν λέγων – a certain lawyer stood up to test him, saying

C. Acts 3:26 ἀπέστειλεν αὐτὸν εὐλογοῦντα ὑμᾶς – he sent him to bless you

VIII. Result – *ing*, with the result

A. This usage is somewhat common

B. Mark 9:7 ἐγένετο νεφέλη ἐπισκιάζουσα αὐτοῖς – a cloud came [with the result of] covering them.

C. John 5:18 πατέρα ἴδιον ἔλεγεν τὸν θεὸν ἴσον ἑαυτὸν ποιῶν τῷ θεῷ – He was calling God his own Father, [with the result of] making himself equal to God.

IX. Attendant Circumstance

A. The participle is used to communicate an action that, in some sense, is coordinate with the finite verb. It is translated as a finite verb connected to the main verb by *and*. This usage is relatively common, but widely misunderstood.

B. Examples.

1. Matt 9:13 πορευθέντες δὲ μαθεῖτε τί ἐστὶν – go and learn what this means.

2. Luke 5:14 ἀπελθὼν δεῖξον σεαυτὸν τῷ ἱερεῖ – Go and show yourself to the priest.

3. Luke 17:19 ἀναστὰς πορεύου – Rise and go.

X. Other Major Uses

A. Indirect Discourse

B. Periphrastic

1. Used with εἰμί

2. Periphrastic: Verb and participle state a single idea – *May* emphasize duration of action

C. Independent verbal participles

D. Genitive Absolute