

Adverbial Participles

I. Participles can be either adjectival or adverbial.

Adjectival ptc: “The *grinning* cat ate.” [modifies a noun, “cat.”]

Adverbial ptc: “While *grinning*, the cat ate.” [modifies a verb, “ate.”]

Chapters 27-28 deal only with adverbial ptc.

II. Strategies for translating the adverbial Present Ptc.

1. If the adverbial participle is active voice, use the “-ing” form of the verb. If its passive voice, use “being -ed/en.”

Act: λύων ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀπέθανεν. *Destroying*, the man died.

Pass: λυόμενος ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀπέθανεν. *Being destroyed*, the man died.

2. If the adverbial idea is Temporal: use “while -ing” (or, “while being -ed/en.”).

Act: λύων ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀπέθανεν. *While destroying*, the man died.

Pass: λυόμενος ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀπέθανεν. *While being destroyed*, the man died.

3. If the adverbial idea is Causal: use “because ___ is/was -ing” (or, “because ___ is/was being -ed/en.”).

Act: λύων ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀπέθανεν. *Because he was destroying*, the man died.

Pass: λυόμενος ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀπέθανεν. *Because he was being destroyed*, the man died.

III. Note: Participles, even though they are adverbial, must still agree with the noun (or the implied noun) in case, gender, and number.

Specified noun: λύων ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀπέθανεν.

Implied noun:[1] λύων ἀπέθανεν. OR [2] λύουσα ἀπέθανεν. What’s the difference ? [1] While destroying, HE died. [2] While destroying, SHE died.

IV. Relative Time of Participles

Participles do not indicate *absolute time*; only indicative verbs do that. So the Present Indicative indicates an action that is *Present* to the speaker; the Aorist Indicative indicates an action that is *Past* to the speaker. For ex.:

PAI3s: Ἰησοῦς ἀποθνήσκει. Jesus is dying. [present time]

2AοAI3s: Ἰησοῦς ἀπέθανεν. Jesus died. [past time]

Adverbial participles, on the other hand, IF they are temporal, simply indicate *relative time*. That is to say, the timing of the participle is relative to the timing of the main verb that it's modifying.

A. A Present (Continuous) Participle will reflect the *same time-frame* of the main verb that it's modifying.

λύων (Pres ptc) ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀποθνήσκει (Pres Indic).= While he is destroying, the man is dying. [The ptc is translated with the present because the main verb is present time.]

λύων (Pres ptc) ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀπέθανεν (2 Aor Indic). While he was destroying, the man died. [The ptc is translated with the past because the main verb is past time.]

B. An Aorist (Undefined) Participle will normally (not always) indicate a time-frame *prior to* the main verb that it's modifying.

λύσας (Aor ptc) ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀποθνήσκει (Pres Indic).= After he destroys/detroyed, the man dies. [The ptc is translated with the adverb "after" to indicate its action is prior to the main verb, which is present time.]

λύσας (Aor ptc) ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀπέθανεν (2 Aor Indic). After he destroyed/had detroyed, the man died. [The ptc is translated with the adverb "after" and a past form of "destroy" to indicate its action is prior to the main verb, which is past time.]