

1. GENITIVE ABSOLUTE PTC CONSTRUCTIONS

a. In Grammar, an “absolute” construction is one that has no syntactic dependencies within the core clause. That is, it is not syntactically dependent upon (governed by) something else in the clause. Let’s take the idea of a genitive noun. Why are the genitive nouns in the following sentences in the genitive case?

(1) ἐγὼ εἰμι ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ θεοῦ.

(2) ἐγὼ ἤκουσα τῆς φωνῆς αὐτοῦ.

(3) ἐγὼ ἦλθον ἀπὸ τοῦ πατρὸς.

b. Greek has a participial construction called the “Genitive Absolute.” There are several features of this construction:

(1) The participle is adverbial (not adjectival) and always anarthrous!

(2) The PTC will be in the genitive case (but not due to any syntactic dependency requiring the genitive case!), and if there is an overt subject, it likewise will be genitive case.

(3) The subject of the PTC will not be linked to any other participant in the core clause (almost 100% of the time). Some (Healey & Healey, Culy) have described the GA as a “switch reference device” since the S of most adverbial PTCs is also the S of the main verb; when this is not the case, the GA will be performed by someone who is not the S of the main verb.

c. Practice from Mounce pp. 279–280:

λέγοντες ταῦτα, οἱ μαθηταὶ ἀπῆλθον

λεγόντων τῶν προφητῶν ταῦτα, οἱ μαθηταὶ ἀπῆλθον

εἰπόντες ταῦτα, οἱ μαθηταὶ ἀπῆλθον

εἰπόντων τῶν προφητῶν ταῦτα, οἱ μαθηταὶ ἀπῆλθον

διδαχθέντες ὑπὸ τοῦ κυρίου, ἐξῆλθον εἰς τὴν ἔρημον οἱ δοῦλοι.

διδαχθέντων τῶν προφητῶν ὑπὸ τοῦ κυρίου, ἐξῆλθον εἰς τὴν ἔρημον οἱ δοῦλοι.

d. NT exx. of the GA

Mark 14:43

⁴³Καὶ εὐθὺς ἔτι αὐτοῦ λαλοῦντος παραγίνεται Ἰούδας

⁴³And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came...

Luke 11:14 (NA28)

¹⁴Καὶ ἦν ἐκβάλλων δαιμόνιον [καὶ αὐτὸ ἦν] κωφόν· ἐγένετο δὲ τοῦ δαιμονίου ἐξελθόντος ἐλάλησεν ὁ κωφὸς καὶ ἐθαύμασαν οἱ ὄχλοι.

¹⁴Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled.

John 8:30 (NA28)

³⁰Ταῦτα αὐτοῦ λαλοῦντος πολλοὶ ἐπίστευσαν εἰς αὐτόν.

³⁰As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

2. Periphrastic participial constructions.

Simply put, these are forms of εἶμί ('to be', used as an auxiliary verb) along with a present-stem or perfect-stem PTC¹ (that matches the gender/# of the S). As such, these are simply "predicate uses" of the PTC (one of the three functions of any adjective). Frequently this construction is used for the Pft M/P I, 3p form (since adding -νται at the end of a verb stem—especially one which ends with a consonant—was cumbersome even for native Greek speakers!).

¹ Only a few aorist-stem PTCs are used in periphrastic constructions: Luk 23:19; Act 8:15; 2 Cor 5:19.

Col 2:5	εἰμί χαίρων	I am rejoicing
Matt 7:29	ἦν...διδάσκων	he was...teaching
Mark 13:13	ἔσεσθε μισούμενοι	you will be hated
John 2:17	γεγραμμένον ἐστίν	it is written

3. Other functions of the PTC:

a. Instrumental use (adverbial).

1 Cor 4:12	¹² καὶ κοπιῶμεν ἐργαζόμενοι ταῖς ἰδίαις χερσίν· λοιδορούμενοι εὐλογοῦμεν, διωκόμενοι ἀνεχόμεθα,	¹² and we labor, <u>by</u> <u>working with our own</u> <u>hands</u> . When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure.
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b. Concessive use (adverbial).

Mark 8:18	¹⁸ ὄφθαλμοὺς ἔχοντες οὐ βλέπετε καὶ ὠτὰ ἔχοντες οὐκ ἀκούετε;	¹⁸ Though you have eyes, do you not see, and though you have ears, do you not hear?
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c. Functions like a regular verb (sort of).

Matt 4:4	⁴ ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς εἶπεν· γέγραπται· οὐκ ἐπ’ ἄρτῳ μόνῳ ζήσεται ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ἀλλ’ ἐπὶ παντὶ ῥήματι ἐκπορευομένῳ διὰ στόματος θεοῦ.	⁴ But <u>he answered</u> and said, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”
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