

LATIN GRAMMAR

Wheelock 23: Participles

1. Intro to Participles

1.1. Participles are *verbal adjectives*!! They have verbal characteristics (can be marked in Latin for tense-stem and voice; can take objects and modifiers) and adjectival characteristics (can be inflected for case, gender, and number; can function as other adjectives do—for ex., substantivally).

1.2. Since Participles are verbal adjectives, they are describing or modifying something (explicitly or implicitly). NOTE: To simplify matters: If the ptc is Active, then whatever it describes is the doer/agent of the ptc-verbal action (typically translate with *-ing*). If the ptc is Passive, then whatever it describes is the receiver/patient of the ptc-verbal action (typically translate with *-ed*, *-d*, *-en*).

1.2.1. *the biting man*: active ptc, the man does the biting

1.2.2. *the bitten man*: passive ptc, the man is the patient, someone else does the biting activity

2. The Forms of Latin Ptcs

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
PRES.	Pres. Stem + -ns (gen. -ntis)	-----
PERF.	-----	Participial Stem + -us , -a , -um
FUT.	Participial Stem + -ūrus , -ūra , -ūrum	Pres. Stem + -ndus , -nda , -ndum

2.1. Four ptcs in Latin: Two in Active voice (Pres Act and Fut Act ptcs) and two in Passive voice (Pft Pass and Fut Pass ptcs). Note, however, that the Present stem is used for the Pres Act ptc and the Fut Passive ptc, while the Participial stem (the Pft Passive ptc, usually the 4th prn part) is used to form the Fut Act ptc and the Pft Passive ptc.

2.2. Sample using a 3rd conj verb: **agō, agere, ēgi, āctum** *to do, drive, lead, act.*

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
PRES.	agēns agentis <i>doing</i>	-----
PERF.	-----	āctus, -a, -um <i>done, having been done</i>
FUT.	āctūrus, -a, -um <i>about to do, going to do</i>	agendus, -a, -um <i>about to be done, deserving to be done</i>

2.3. Sample of More Ptcs in Different Stems

	1 ST CONJ		4 TH CONJ		3 RD CONJ -IO	
	ACTIVE	PASSIVE	ACTIVE	PASSIVE	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
PRES.	laudāns	-----	audiēns	-----	capiēns	-----
PERF.	-----	laudātus	-----	audītus	-----	captus
FUT.	laudātūrus	laudandus	audītūrus	audiendus	captūrus	capiendus

Note: for the 4th Conj and 3rd Conj -io forms, we find -ie with the Present stem ptcs.

3. Declension of Ptcs

Generally ptcs follow the 2-1-2 pattern of the adj. **magnus, -a, -um**. However, the Pres Act Ptc is a 3rd decl (3-3) form that follows the pattern of 3rd declension i-stem adjectives like **potēns, -ntis** ‘powerful’ (see Ch. 16). Here is a paradigm of the ptc forms of **agō** in the Pres Act Ptc formation (with the paradigm of the adj for comparison):

SING.	3	3	3	3
	M/F	N	M/F	N
NOM	agēns	agēns		potēns
GEN	agentis	agentis	potentis	potentis
DAT	agentī	agentī	potentī	potentī
ACC	agentem	agēns	potentem	potēns
ABL	agentī/agente	agentī/agente	potentī	potentī
PL.				
NOM	agentēs	agentia	potentēs	potentia
GEN	agentium	agentium	potentium	potentium
DAT	agentibus	agentibus	potentibus	potentibus
ACC	agentēs	agentia	potentēs (-īs)	potentia
ABL	agentibus	agentibus	potentibus	potentibus

Note: Abl sing for all genders end with both -ī/-e (with -ī when ptc functions as attributive adj; with -e when ptc functions substantively). Note as well that given our “aNT aND TRiM” principle, the NT causes any preceding long vowel to shorten, no matter where it is (i.e., it doesn’t have to be final NT to cause shortening).

4. Function of Ptcs

Because ptcs are verbal adjectives, they can do the sorts of things normal adjectives can do.

4.1. Attributive function: the ptc can function as a direct attribute of a noun and will agree in case, gender, number: **pater amāns** *the/a loving father* (both N and Adj are Nom ms).

4.2. Substantival function: the ptc may occur without a noun to modify and thus will function as the noun. These are substantival in function and so will fill typically “noun function slots” like subject, object, appositive. Ex: **Amāns mē amāvit.** *The lover loved me.*

Substantival ptcs can be rendered a number of ways. Assuming the ptc is present active: the ____er, the one who ____s, he/she/they who ____s, those who ____, the ____ing one(s).

4.3. Predicate adjective function: the ptc could also serve as a predicate adj. (or a subject complement).

Normal predicate adj: **Pater noster fortis est.** Our father is strong.
 Predicate Ptc: **Pater noster amāns est.** Our father is loving.

4.4. A participle can also modify a noun in the clause while also serving to contextualize the action of the main verb. The TENSE of the ptc will be relative to the tense of the main verb in the following ways:

PTC TYPE	RELATIVE TENSE RELATION TO MAIN VERB	MEANING
PRESENT PTC	contemporaneous	ptc action same time as main verb
PERFECT PTC	prior	ptc action before main verb
FUTURE PTC	subsequent	ptc action after main verb

Engl. Exx: Eating cookies (pres act ptc), they watch/watched/will watch the sunset.

Having been banished (pft pass ptc), they sail/sailed/will sail away.

About to toss (their) cookies (fut act ptc), they sail/sailed/will sail away.

Latin Exx:

Graecī nautae, videntēs (pres act ptc) *The Greek sailors, seeing Polyphemus, are afraid,*

Polyphēmum, timent, timuērunt, timēbunt. *were afraid, will be afraid.*

Graecī nautae, visī (pft pass ptc) **ā** *The Greek sailors, (having been) seen by P., are*

Polyphēmō, timent, timuērunt, timēbunt. *afraid, were afraid, will be afraid.*

Graecī nautae, vīsūrī (fut act ptc)

The Greek sailors, about to see Polyphemus, are

Polyphēmum, timent, timuērunt, timēbunt. *afraid, were afraid, will be afraid.*

4.5. Translating participial phrases as dependent/subordinate clauses.

In English, we can also translate the participial expression as a subordinate clause, allowing us to specify more precisely the subject and the tense of the participle relative to the main verb. The choice of the subordinating conjunction (when, while, after, because, since, even though/although) depends on the semantic relationship that can be inferred between the participial phrase and the main clause. Let's re-translate some of the sentences above:

	As Participle	As Subordinate Clause
Graecī nautae, videntēs (pres act ptc) Polyphēmum, timent.	<i>seeing Polyphemus</i>	The Greek sailors, <i>because/when they see Polyphemus, are afraid.</i>
Graecī nautae, videntēs (pres act ptc) Polyphēmum, timuērunt.	<i>seeing Polyphemus</i>	The Greek sailors, <i>because/when they saw Polyphemus, were afraid.</i>
Graecī nautae, vīsī (pft pass ptc) ā Polyphēmō, timent.	<i>(having been) seen by P.</i>	The Greek sailors, <i>because/after they have been seen by P., are afraid.</i>
Graecī nautae, vīsī (pft pass ptc) ā Polyphēmō, timuērunt.	<i>(having been) seen by P.</i>	The Greek sailors, <i>because/after they had been seen by P., were afraid.</i>
Graecī nautae, vīsūrī (fut act ptc) Polyphēmum, timent.	<i>about to see Polyphemus</i>	The Greek sailors, <i>since they are about to see Polyphemus, are afraid.</i>
Graecī nautae, vīsūrī (fut act ptc) Polyphēmum, timuērunt.	<i>about to see Polyphemus</i>	The Greek sailors, <i>since they were about to see Polyphemus, were afraid.</i>