

Chapter 20

The Present Participle

20.1 A Participle is a “verbal adjective” :

e.g. "the **slinking** cat", "a **fallen** tree", "**running** water", "**stinking** garbage"
"The man **reading** the book is my brother.", "The girl walked down the road, **singing**."

The Greek Participles

are like verbs, in that they have Tense (past, present, perfect – future participles are rare in the GNT) and are like adjectives, in that they have to agree with the noun or pronoun which they qualify (go with) in Number (singular or plural), Case (Nominative, Accusative, etc.) and Gender.

All participles follow the same basic set of rules for use, so in this chapter we shall restrict our examples to the Present Participle Active, as applied to a masculine nominative noun or pronoun. Later chapters will cover the other participles and their forms.

20.2 The Present Participle Active : The Present Stem of the Greek Verb has the sense of continuous or repeated action. For the Present Participle this implies that the action of the participle is going on at the same time as the action of the main verb in the sentence.

"The girl went to school, singing."	the action is in the past
"The girl goes to school, singing."	the action is in the present
"The girl will go to school, singing."	the action is in the future

Note that for all three sentences the participle remains the same - "singing".
The time at which the singing takes place is given by the main verb, not by the participle.

20.3 Greek builds the **Masculine form of the Present Participle** by adding **-ων** (Singular) or **-οντες** (Plural) to the Present Stem of the Verb.

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	STEM- ων	STEM- οντες

The contract verbs apply the usual rules of contraction :

α + ο or **ω = ω**, **ε + ο = ου**, **ε + ω = ω**, **ο + ο = ου**, **ο + ω = ω**

	Singular	Plural	
λεγω - I say	λεγων	λεγοντες	saying
αγαπω - I love	αγαπων	αγαπωντες	loving
ποιεω - I do, make	ποιων	ποιουντες	doing
πληρωω - I fulfil	πληρων	πληρουντες	fulfilling
ειμι - I am	ων	οντες	being
εχω - I have	εχων	εχοντες	having

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

NOTE - English does not use participles in quite the same way as Greek does.

For each of the sentences below there is a "wooden literal" translation, and a more colloquial translation.

1. ὁ Ἰησους ἦν ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ κηρυσσων. Jesus was in the synagogue, preaching.
Jesus was preaching in the synagogue.
2. ἀκουων τους λογους του Ἰησου πιστευω αὐτω. Hearing the words of Jesus, I believe in him.
I hear the words of Jesus and believe in him.
3. ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἐχων το βιβλιον διακονος ἐστιν. The man having the book is a servant.
*The man **with** the book is a servant.*

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| 4. ὁ δεσμιος ὢν ἐν τῇ φυλακῇ κλαίει. | The prisoner, being in the prison, weeps.
<i>The prisoner weeps in the prison.</i> |
| 5. ἀγαπῶντες τοὺς ἀδελφούς εἰρήνην ἔχομεν. | Loving the brothers, we have peace.
<i>We have peace while we love the brothers.</i> |
| 6. διδάσκων τὰ παιδιά ὁ διδασκαλὸς ἀναβαίνει
πρὸς τὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα. | Teaching the children, the teacher goes up
to(wards) Jerusalem.
<i>The teacher teaches the children while he is going up to Jerusalem.</i> |
| 7. ὢν ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ ὁ Ἰωάννης κηρυσσεῖ
τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ τῷ λαῷ. | Being in the desert, John preaches
the word of God to the people.
<i>While he is in the desert, John preaches the word of God to the people.</i> |
| 8. ὄντες ἐν τῇ Ἱερουσαλὴμ ζητοῦμεν τὸ ἱερόν. | Being in Jerusalem, we seek the temple.
<i>While we are in Jerusalem we seek the temple.</i> |
| 9. ποιοῦντες ταῦτα τὰ ἔργα
εὕρισκομεν τὴν εἰρήνην. | Doing these deeds/acts/works,
we find peace.
<i>We find peace when we do these things.</i> |
| 10. λεγὼν τοῖς ὄχλοις ὁ Ἰησοῦς διδάσκει αὐτοὺς. | Speaking to the crowds, Jesus teaches them.
<i>Jesus speaks to the crowds and teaches them.</i> |

Note that in the above examples, English tends to turn the participle into an active verb, which takes on the same degree of importance as the main verb. Greek is more logical, in that it shows the main focus of the sentence by the main verb, and uses the Present Participle for describing the concurrent circumstances. This can be of importance in translating the Greek text.

For example, in Matthew 28:19-20, the Imperative is "make disciples!"

Participles are used for "having gone", "baptizing", and "teaching".

The command is not to "Go!" but to "Make disciples!" So a good translation should show this.
e.g. "Having gone, (or - After you go (from here), make disciples, (by) baptizing . . . and teaching . . ."

20.4 The Participle used as a Noun

We learned in chapter 10 that adjectives can be used as nouns, by adding the definite article with the adjective. Go to Section 10.7 to review this usage if necessary.

Because the participle is a verbal adjective, it can be used in the same way.

e.g. ὁ λεγὼν = "the one saying" *"he who says"* οἱ λεγοντες = "the ones saying" *"those who say"*

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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| 1. ὁ λεγὼν, Ἄμαρτιαν οὐκ ἔχω, ψευστὴς ἐστίν. | The one saying, "I do not have sin." is a liar.
<i>He who says "I don't (have) sin." is a liar.</i> |
| 2. μακαριοὶ οἱ ποιοῦντες τὰ ἔργα
τῆς δικαιοσύνης. | Blessed the ones doing the works
of righteousness.
<i>Blessed are those who do (the) works of righteousness.</i> |
| 3. οἱ τηροῦντες τὸν νόμον τοῦ θεοῦ
ἦσαν δίκαιοι. | The ones keeping the law of God
were righteous. |
| 4. ὁ ἀγαπῶν τὰς ἀδελφὰς διακονεῖ αὐταῖς. | The one loving the sisters serves them. |
| 5. ὁ κηρυσσὼν τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ
προφήτης ἐστίν. | The one preaching the word of God
is the prophet. |
| 6. οἱ ὄντες ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ Φαρισαῖοι ἦσαν. | The ones (being) in the synagogue
were Pharisees. |
| 7. οἱ ἔχοντες τὸν σταυρὸν στρατιῶται εἰσίν. | The ones having (with) the cross are soldiers. |
| 8. ὁ ἄγων τοὺς ἵππους ἐστίν ὁ υἱὸς
ὃν ἐγὼ φιλῶ. | The one leading the horses is the son
whom I love. |
| 9. οἱ βλασφημοῦντες τὸν θεὸν ἀδίκοι εἰσίν. | The ones blaspheming God are unrighteous. |
| 10. οἱ προσκυνῶντες τῷ κυρίῳ ἦσαν οἱ ἅγιοι. | The ones worshipping the Lord were
the saints. |

20.5 Negation : Greek uses μη with participles.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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| 1. μη έχοντες διδασκαλον
οί νεανιαι μακαριοι οὐκ ἦσαν. | Not having a teacher,
the young men were not happy. |
| 2. ὁ δουλος μη έχων ἄρτον πεινα. | The slave, not having bread, is hungry. |
| 3. ὁ μη πιστευων ἐν τῷ κυριῷ οὐ σοφος ἐστιν. | The one not believing in the Lord is not wise. |
| 4. οἱ μη ἀγαπωντες τους ἀδελφους
περιπατουσιν ἐν τῇ σκοτιᾷ. | The ones not loving the brothers
are walking in darkness. |
| 5. οἱ μη κηρυσσοντες το εὐαγγελιον του
Χριστου μαθητης αὐτου οὐκ εἰσιν. | The ones not preaching the Gospel of
Christ are not his disciples. |
| 6. ὁ μη ἀγαπων με τους λογους μου οὐ τηρει. | The one not loving me does not keep
my words. (<i>John 14:24</i>) |
| 7. ὁ μη συναγων μετ' ἐμου σκορπιζει. | The one not gathering with me, scatters.
(<i>Matt: 12:30</i>) |
| 8. ὁ μη ὦν μετ' ἐμου κατ' ἐμου ἐστιν. | The one not (being) with me is against me.
(<i>Matt: 12:30</i>) |
| 9. ὁ ἀκουων τους λογους μου
και μη τηρων αὐτους ἀπιστος ἐστιν. | The one hearing my words
and not keeping them, is unfaithful. |
| 10. το δενδρον το μη ποιουν καρπον καλον
κακον ἐστιν. | The tree not producing good fruit
is bad. |

20.6 Sentences for reading and translation

1. μακαριοι οἱ ποιουντες τα ἔργα του θεου.
2. ὁ έχων τα βιβλια ἐστιν ὁ διδασκαλος.
3. οἱ μισουντες τους ἀδελφους αὐτων οὐ τεκνα θεου εἰσιν.
4. ὁ ὄχλος ἀναβαινοντες προς τα Ἱεροσολυμα ψαλλει τῷ θεῷ.
5. ὁ Ἰησους καταβαινων ἀπο των Ἱεροσολυμων συνκαλει τους μαθητας αὐτου.
6. ὁ πρεσβυτερος ἦν ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ κηρυσσων το εὐαγγελιον.
7. ὁ ἄγγελος έχων το βιβλιον ἀνοιγει αὐτο και ἀναγινωσκει αὐτο.
8. ὁ διψων και πεινων τον λογον του θεου ἀναγινωσκει τας γραφας τας ἁγίας.
9. ἐγγιζων εἰς Ἱεροσολυμα ὁ Ἰησους προφητευει τον θανατον αὐτου.
10. μακαριοι οἱ πεινωντες και διψωντες την δικαιοσυνην.

20.7 Writing Practice : Write the Greek, while saying the Greek aloud (John 1:1-2)

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λογος, και ὁ λογος ἦν προς τον θεον, και θεος ἦν ὁ λογος. οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ προς τον θεον.	In (the) beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He (this one) was in the beginning with God
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20.8 New Testament Passages for reading and translation

Matthew 5:3-10, John 14:21, John 14:24, 1 John 2:9-11

In your Greek New Testament, read the passages aloud several times until you can read them without long pauses or stumbling. Then use the translation helps to translate them.

τῷ πνεύματι	in spirit	(τὸ πνεῦμα - the spirit, wind, breath)
παρακληθῆσονται	they will be encouraged, comforted	(Future Passive of παρακαλεῶ)
οἱ πραεῖς	the gentle, humble	(πραῦς, πραεῖα, πραῦ - humble, gentle)
κληρονομήσουσιν	they will inherit	(Future tense of κληρονομεῶ - I inherit, am an heir)
χορτασθήσονται	they will be fed	(Future Passive of χορταζῶ - I feed)
οἱ ἐλεημονεῖς	the ones showing mercy, being merciful	(ἐλεεῶ - I show mercy)
ἐλεηθήσονται	they will receive mercy	(Future Passive of ἐλεεῶ - I show mercy)
ὄψονται	they will see	
οἱ εἰρηνοποιοί	the ones making peace	(from ἡ εἰρήνη - peace and ποιέω - I make)
κληθήσονται	they will be called	(Future Passive of καλέω - I call)
δεδιωγμένοι	the ones having been persecuted	(Perfect Pass. of διώκω - I persecute)
ἀγαπησεται	(he) will be loved	(Future Passive of ἀγαπάω - I love)
ὑπο τοῦ πατρὸς	by the father	(πατρός is the Genitive Singular of ὁ πατήρ - father)
ἀγαπήσω	I will love	(Future of ἀγαπάω - I love)
ἐμφανίσω	I will reveal	(Future of ἐμφανίζω - I reveal, make known)
τοῦ πεμψάντος με πατρὸς	of the having-sent me Father = of the Father who sent me	
λεγῶν ἐν τῷ φωτὶ εἶναι	claiming to be in the light	
ἐν τῷ φωτὶ	in the light	(Genitive of τὸ φῶς - light)
οἶδεν	(he) knows	(from οἶδα - I know, I have learned)
ἐτυφλώσεν	(it) blinded	(a past tense of τυφλόω - I blind)

20.9 Vocabulary to learn

ἀνοίγω	I open (up)	
διψᾶω	I am thirsty	
ἐλεεῶ or ἐλεᾶω	I am merciful, I show mercy to	(English uses a dative - Greek does not)
κληρονομέω	I inherit, share	(from ὁ κληρὸς - portion, lot, ὁ κληρονομὸς - heir)
μένω	I remain	
μισέω	I hate	(a misanthropist hates mankind)
πεινάω	I am hungry	
πενθέω	I mourn	
σκορπίζω	I scatter	
χορτάζω	I feed	(ὁ χορτὸς - grass. χορτάζω originally meant "to feed cattle")
ψάλλω	I sing	(hence Psalm)
τὸ σκάνδαλον	cause for offense, stumbling block	
ἄρτι	now, at the present, just now	
ἐνεκεν	for the sake of , on behalf of	(takes Genitive)
ἕως	until, as far as	(used as a conjunction or a preposition)