## Classification of Adverbial (Circumstantial) Participles

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<th>Name</th>
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<th>Examples</th>
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| **Temporal** *(pp. 623-627)* | Indicates that something was happening before, during, or after the action of the main verb. Answers 'When?' | ‘when’, ‘while’, or ‘after’ or ‘before’                                 | Pres: Mark 2:14 ‘while passing by, he saw Levi’  
Aor: Matt 4:2 ‘after he fasted, he became hungry’ | Present, Aorist, Perfect      | (Can be Future, although it usually fits under another category. See 'Purpose' below.) - Should be primary element author wishes to express, since almost all participles are temporal in a secondary sense. (Where is emphasis?) |
| **Means** *(Instrument) (pp. 628-630)* | Indicates the means by which the action of the main verb is accomplished. (Defines, explains, or makes more explicit the action of the main verb.) Answers ‘How?’ | ‘by means of’ or ‘by’                                                  | Pres: Acts 9:32 ‘Paul confounded … by proving [Jesus] was the Christ’  
Aor: 1 Pet 5:6-7 ‘humble yourselves…by casting…your cares’ | Almost always contemporaneous with time of main verb. Usually present tense. (But ofentimes aorist - esp. when the progressive aspect is not in view) | - Frequently used with vague, general, abstract, or metaphorical finite verbs.  
- Usually follows the main verb. |
| **Manner** *(pp. 627-628)* | Indicates the manner by which the action of the main verb is accomplished. Answers ‘How?’ (Merely refers to the emotion or attitude that accompanies the main verb.) “Participle of Style” | (often the translation of participle merely ends in ‘–ing’) | Pres: Matt 19:22 ‘he went away grieving’  
Acts 5:41 ‘they went away rejoicing’ | Present, Aorist               | - Relatively rare compared to Participle of Means.  
- Does it define action of main verb (Means) or only ‘add extra color’ (Manner)? |
| **Condition** *(pp. 632-633)* | Implies a condition on which the fulfillment of the idea indicated by the main verb depends. Roughly equivalent to 3rd class conditional. | ‘if’                                                                     | Pres: Matt 21:22 ‘ask in prayer… if you believe, you will receive’  
Aor: Luke 9:25 ‘what profit… if he should gain the whole world’ | Present, Aorist               | - Has some overlap (in form and meaning) with Participle of Means. (e.g. 1 Tim.4:6, 2 Pet.1:10) |
| **Purpose** *(Telic) (pp. 635-637)* | Indicates the purpose of action of finite verb. (Emphasizes intention or design of main verb.) Simple ‘–ing’ translation misses the meaning. Answers ‘For what reason?’ | ‘in order to’ or ‘with the purpose of’                                  | Fut: Matt 27:49 ‘Let us see whether Elijah will come in order to save him’  
Almost never aorist. Cannot be perfect (since usually antecedent time). | - In word order, almost always follows the main verb. |
| **Result** *(pp. 637-639)* | Indicates the actual outcome or result of the action of the main verb, either by simultaneous implication or by subsequent real result. | ‘with the result of’                                                   | John 5:18 ‘with the result of making himself equal with God’ - implication  
Eph 2:15 ‘with the result of making peace’ - real | Will almost always be a present tense participle.  
(Never in perfect tense.) | - Will always follow the main verb (in word order).  
- Some overlap with Participle of Purpose. (Ask “Where is the emphasis?”) |
| **Cause** *(pp. 631-632)* | Indicates the ‘cause’, ‘reason’, or ‘ground’ of the action of the finite verb. Answers ‘Why?’ | ‘because’ (or ‘since’)                                                 | John 4:6 ‘because Jesus was wearied … was sitting’  
Phil 1:6 ‘since I am confident of this very thing’ | Often ‘Perfect passive’; also ‘aorist’ and ‘present’. Adverbial perfect participles almost always belong here (except when form periphrastic or predicate adjective). Never in Future. | - Normally precedes the verb it modifies, in word order.  
- Semantically opposite of Causal; structurally same.  
- Often includes particle to make ‘concession obvious’. E.g kaipper, kaiytoige, etc. |
| **Concession** *(pp. 634-635)* | Implies that the state or action of the main verb is true in spite of the state or action of the participle. | ‘although’ or ‘in spite of the fact’                                 | 1 Pet 1:8 ‘although you have not seen him, you love him’  
Eph 2:1 ‘although you were dead’  
Rom 1:21 ‘although they knew God, they did not honor him as God’ | Often ‘Perfect passive’; also ‘aorist’ and ‘present’.  
Unlike the usual way to negate participles with the adverb mh; the causal participle will often use ojw when it is negated. | - Normally precedes verb it modifies, in word order.  
- Semantically opposite of Causal; structurally same.  
- Often includes particle to make ‘concession obvious’. E.g kaipper, kaiytoige, etc. |

* Page numbering refers to the major section where this topic is discussed in “Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics” by Daniel B. Wallace.  
** Names in bold are more commonly used than names not emboldened. This chart does not include other uses of the participle, such as when used adjectively or substantivally.  

Use of Participles, By Corey Keating, Page 1 of 2, Version 2.9, August 2010, [www.ntgreek.org](http://www.ntgreek.org)  
Information gathered primarily from “Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics” by Daniel B. Wallace
### Other Uses of the Verbal Participle (Besides Adverbial)

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| Attendant Circumstance (Some books may classify as Circumstantial Participle) (pp. 640-645) | Communicates an action that is coordinate with the action of the finite verb. The participial action must happen before the main verbal action and is closely related to it. Translated as a finite verb, connected to main verb with ‘and’. It derives its mood semantically from the main verb. | Matt. 2:13, 14 ‘Rise and take the child’  
Matt. 9:13 ‘Go and learn’  
Luke 5:11 ‘they left everything and followed him’ | 90% of the time, all five of the following features are present:  
1. Participle usually aorist tense.  
2. Main verb usually aorist tense.  
3. Main verb usually imperative or indicative mood.  
4. Participle will precede main verb in word order and time of happening (although usually very close proximity).  
5. Frequent in narrative literature, infrequent elsewhere. |
| Periphrastic Participle (pp. 647-649)            | An anarthrous participle used with a verb of being to form a finite verbal idea. A roundabout way of saying what could be expressed by a single finite verb. | Colossians 1:6 ‘it is bearing fruit’  
Matt. 7:29 ‘he was teaching them’ | - Almost always nominative case and follows the main verb. Generally used with εἰμί, also with γίνεσθαι and ἔχειν. Possibly with εἰς εἰρήμενον couple instances in Luke’s Gospel.  
- Common in Present and Perfect participles, but not with other tenses. |
| Indirect Discourse (pp. 645-646)                 | Indirect discourse; reporting what someone said (or perceived) by changing the words of the original into the words of the reporter, or for grammatical inclusion into a larger clause. | Acts 7:12 ‘Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt’  
2 John 7 ‘confessing that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh’ | - After a verb of perception or communication.  
- Anarthrous participle in accusative case, in conjunction with accusative noun (or pronoun).  
| Complementary Participle (p. 645)               | Completes the thought of another verb.                                           | Eph. 1:6 ‘I do not cease being thankful’  
Acts 12:16 ‘Peter kept on knocking’ | - Especially used in combination of a verb suggesting consummation.  
- Rarely used in NT. |
| Redundant (Appositional) (pp. 649-650)           | A verb of saying (or sometimes thinking) can be used with a participle with basically the same meaning. | Matt. 11:25 ‘Jesus, answering, said’  
- Probably due to a Semitic idiom.  
- Occurs almost exclusively in the Synoptic Gospels. |

### The Participle Absolute

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| Genitive Absolute (pp. 654-655)                   | The construction is unconnected with the rest of the sentence (i.e. logical subject of the genitive participle is different than the subject of the finite verb). The participle is always adverbial and usually translated as a temporal participle. | Matt. 9:18 ‘while he was saying these things, … a certain ruler came’  
Acts 13:2 ‘while they were worshiping the Lord… the Holy Spirit said’ | - Structure: 1. A noun or pronoun in the genitive case (sometimes only implied), acting as the logical subject of verbal action in the participle.  
2. Always a genitive anarthrous participle.  
3. Usually the entire construction is at the front of a sentence or clause.  
- Mostly found in the Gospels and Acts. |
| Nominative Absolute (p. 654)                      | Really a substantival participle used to enunciate the logical (not grammatical) subject at the beginning of the sentence, and that subject is taken up later by a pronoun in the case required by the syntax. (i.e. ‘nominativus pendens’) | John 7:38 ‘the one who believes in me … rivers will flow out of his belly’  
Rev. 3:21 ‘the one who conquers, to him I will give to sit’ | - A substantival participle in the nominative case.  
- At the beginning of a sentence.  
- Not the grammatical subject of sentence, but logically is the substantive being discussed. |

### Independent Uses of the Verbal Participle (No participle should be translated within these categories that can properly be connected with a finite verb.)

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<td>Imperatival (pp. 650-652)</td>
<td>The participle may function as an independent imperative. Translated as an imperative verb.</td>
<td>Rom. 12:9 ‘hate the evil, cleave to the good’</td>
<td>- Quite rare.</td>
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| As Indicative (p. 653)                            | Standing alone in a declarative sentence as the only verb in the clause. Translated as an indicative verb. | Rev. 1: 6 ‘he had in his right hand’ | - Quite rare. Not used this way in Classical Greek.  
- Apparently due to Semitic influence. |