

## UNIT 15

### TRIPLE JUMP- THE PARTICIPLES

#### 15.1 What is a Participle?

As its name indicates, a **Participle** is a word which *participates* in the properties of the Verb and the Adjective at the same time. So its function is always simultaneously connected with indicating action and describing persons or objects. Here are the three kinds of **Participle** in Latin with their specific functions :

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Past Participle</u></b></li> </ul>	<p>You have met this form in <b>9.3</b> in connection with the Perfect Tense of Passive Verbs. The <b>Past Participle</b> is always <b>Passive</b> eg. <i>assumptus</i> ('taken up'), but don't forget the <b>Deponent Past Participle</b> which has an <b>Active</b> meaning e.g. <i>egressus</i> ('having gone out')</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Present Participle</u></b></li> </ul>	<p>The endings <b>-ans</b> and <b>-ens</b> are associated with the <b>Present Participle</b>, but you will have to look out for inflections. Its equivalent in English is <b>-ing</b> e.g. <i>Jesus sedebat <u>docens</u></i> - Jesus sat <u>teaching</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Future Participle</u></b></li> </ul>	<p>You will recognise the <b>Future Participle</b>, on the rare occasion when you might meet it, by its ending <b>-urus</b> which gives the meaning of 'going to' or 'about to' do something e.g. <i>judicaturus</i> ('going to judge')</p>

#### 15.2 THE ABLATIVE ABSOLUTE or 'X' having been 'Y'

The formation and use of the Past Participle have already been covered in **9.3**, but there remains a major and very special case where it is used in Latin and for which there is no exact parallel in English, namely the **Ablative Absolute**. This is a grammatical form in the Ablative Case (see **2.2**) which has, as it were, broken its ties with the rest of the sentence (*absolutum* means 'freed from'), and leads an independent existence ; if, for instance, it were removed, the rest of the sentence would suffer no damage. For this construction to operate, two basic elements must be present :

- a Noun in the Ablative Case
- a Past Participle in the Ablative Case

So whenever you see these two grammatical forms placed next to or near each other you know that it is a construction which requires careful consideration before putting it into English.

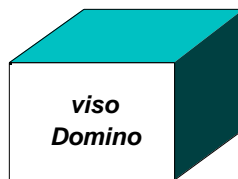
The first thing to remember is that it is an expression of **time in the past** which is often best translated by 'when...' or 'after...'

Secondly, translations into English can vary enormously, as you will see below, depending on the wider context of the sentence, or to satisfy the exigencies of style. Let us look at some examples :

#### Revision Note :

Before proceeding any further, make sure that you are familiar with the Ablative Case (**2.2**) and also with the 4th Part of the Verb (**9.3**) from which the Past Participle is formed.

Let us take as our first example of the **Ablative Absolute** an expression which makes use of *Domino* (Abl. of *Dominus*) and *viso* (from *video, videre, vidi, visum* - to see). This is what it looks like :

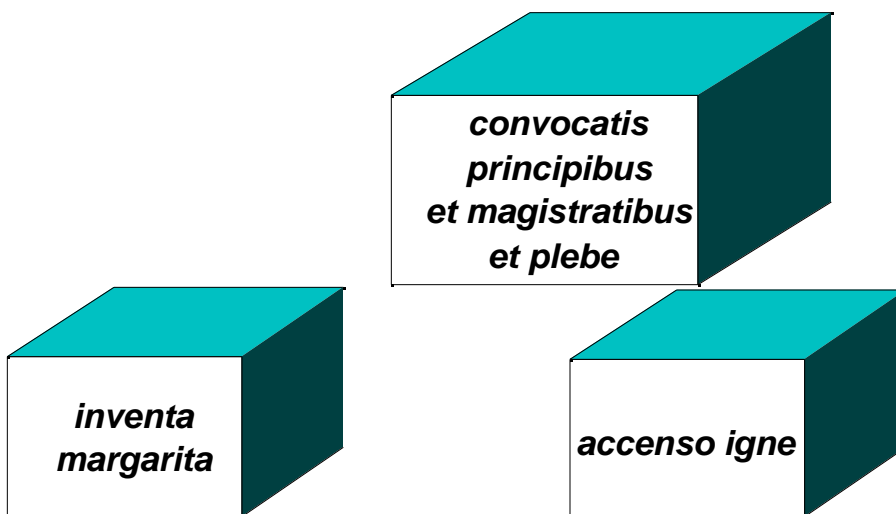


Before translating this kind of expression, think of the motto 'X having been Y', and you will easily see that this has a literal meaning of 'the Lord having been seen'. But as this would be an ungainly style of writing, it is better translated into English *within its context of time and place*. So we have 'when they saw the Lord'. This could also be translated as 'when / after they had seen the Lord', or even, at a pinch, '(upon) seeing the Lord'

Now you can proceed in the same way by looking at the following expressions all containing

- Nouns in the Ablative from *ignis* (fire), *princeps* (chief), *magistratus* (magistrate), *plebs* (the people) *margarita* (pearl).
- the Past Participle (also in the Ablative) of these Verbs :

<i>convoco, -are, -avi, <b>convocatum</b></i>	to call together
<i>invenio, -ire, inveni, <b>inventum</b></i>	to find
<i>accendo, -ere, accendi, <b>accensum</b></i>	to kindle



Now see how these expressions are used and the ways in which they can be translated :

ABLATIVE ABSOLUTE	LITERAL TRANSLATION	CORRECT TRANSLATION
<i>convocatis principibus sacerdotum et magistratibus, et plebe</i>	the chief priests, magistrates and the people having been called together	when he [Pilate] had called together the chief priests, magistrates and the people
<i>inventae autem una pretiosa margarita</i>	and a pearl of great price having been found	and when he found one pearl of great price
<i>accenso autem igne in medio atrii</i>	and a fire having been kindled in the middle of the hall	and when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the hall

**Exercise 1** First read these sentences :

1. having called together the multitudes unto Him
2. when they heard this / upon hearing this
3. when they had opened their treasures
6. sending his armies
7. when you have bound his hands and feet
8. kneeling down

4. lifting up His eyes to heaven  
5. the gifts which we have received

9. having received Thy sacraments  
10. when a fire had been kindled

Now look at the table below which contains 10 sets of Past Participles and matching Nouns. Choose a Past Participle in the left hand column and match it up with its 'partner' on the right to form an Ablative Absolute expression which will correspond with each of the sentences above.

Past ParticipleAblative Noun

<i>ligatis</i>	<i>thesauris</i>
<i>sublevatis</i>	<i>sacramentis</i>
<i>audito</i>	<i>muneribus</i>
<i>apertis</i>	<i>igne</i>
<i>convocatis ad se</i>	<i>manibus et pedibus ejus</i>
<i>accenso</i>	<i>oculis in coelo</i>
<i>missis</i>	<i>hoc verbo</i>
<i>flexo</i>	<i>exercitibus suis</i>
<i>perceptis</i>	<i>turbis</i>
<i>sumptis</i>	<i>genu</i>

Note : you should be able to recognise all the Past Participles from the 4th Part of Verbs already encountered even though some appear in a compound form.

eg. *convocatis* (called together) is a variation on *voco*, -are, -avi, *vocatum* (to call)

*sublevatis* takes its root from *levo*, -are, -avi, *levatum* (to raise)

*perceptis* (received) is affiliated to *accipio*, -ere, -epi, *acceptum* (to take) which you have already met

**15.3 THE PRESENT PARTICIPLE**

This form of the Verb is often found in great abundance wherever there are narrative passages in the Scriptures and is extremely popular with the Gospel writers because it gives a sense of vividness and immediacy to eye-witness reports. You have only to glance through the accounts of the Passion or the Ascension, for example, to see how true this is.

As for its formation, it resembles some 3rd Declension Nouns (See 2.5) :

*stans, stantis* - standing

CASE	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Nom	<i>stans</i>	<i>stantes</i>
Acc.	<i>stantem</i>	<i>stantes</i>
Gen.	<i>stantis</i>	<i>stantium</i>
Dat.	<i>stanti</i>	<i>stantibus</i>
Abl	<i>stante</i>	<i>stantibus</i>

*dicens, dicentis* - saying

CASE	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Nom	<i>dicens</i>	<i>dicentes</i>
Acc.	<i>dicentem</i>	<i>dicentes</i>
Gen.	<i>dicentis</i>	<i>dicentium</i>
Dat.	<i>dicenti</i>	<i>dicentibus</i>
Abl	<i>dicente</i>	<i>dicentibus</i>

Revision Note : Look again at Section 2.2 to refresh your memory on Inflection and Cases. You will be using all the variations of the Present Participle in the material below.

### Table of Present Participles

*calumnians* - speaking evil of  
*dormiens* - sleeping  
*malignans* - doing evil  
*procendens* - proceeding  
*portans* - carrying  
*saliens* - jumping, springing up  
*credens* - believing

*sedens* - sitting  
*intercedens* - interceding  
*audiens* - hearing  
*interrogans* - questioning  
*persequens* - persecuting  
*transiliens* - jumping over

Note : This Table gives only one form of the Present Participle, i.e. Nom. Sing. All Present Participles are subject to change (Inflection) during use in a sentence as follows :

#### 15.4 Inflection of Present Participles

The following examples show how Present Participles, both Singular and Plural, are used in different ways according to their function in a sentence. Check with the tables in 15.3 for the Case endings

##### in the Nominative

*Ecce iste venit saliens in montibus, transiliens colles*

Behold, he cometh, leaping upon the mountains, skipping over the hills

*Ecce viri portantes in lecto hominem, qui erat paralyticus*

Behold men bringing in a bed a man who had the palsy

##### in the Accusative

*invenerunt illum in templo sedentem in medio doctorum, audientem illos et interrogantem eos*

they found Him sitting in the temple in the midst of the doctors, listening to them and asking them questions

*invenit eos dormientes prae tristitia*

He found them sleeping for sorrow

##### in the Genitive

*per intercessionem beati Michaelis archangeli stantis a dextris altaris incensi*

through the intercession of blessed Michael the archangel standing at the right hand of the altar of incense

*concilium malignantium*

the council of the wicked (lit. of those doing evil)

##### in the Dative

*procedenti ab utroque  
 aperuisti credentibus regnum caelorum*

to the One proceeding from both  
 Thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all

believers (lit. to those believing)

### in the Ablative

*intercedente beata Agatha Virgine et Martyre*

through the intercession of Saint Agatha Virgin and Martyr (lit. with St Agatha interceding)

*orate pro persequentibus, et calumniantibus vos*

pray for those who persecute (lit. persecuting) you and who calumniate (lit. calumniating) you

**Table  
of Present Participles**

<i>baptizans</i> - baptising	<i>mittens</i> - sending
<i>docens</i> - teaching	<i>(de)currens</i> - running (down)
<i>comprehendens</i> - taking hold	<i>succurrens</i> - helping
<i>veniens</i> - coming	<i>attendens</i> - attending
<i>euns</i> - going	<i>confortans</i> - strengthening
<i>existimans</i> - thinking	<i>quaerens</i> - seeking
<i>proficiens</i> - setting out	<i>sperans</i> - hoping
<i>lucens</i> - shining	<i>diligens</i> - loving

### **Vocabulary**

<i>manipulus, -i</i> - bundle, sheaf	<i>exsultatio, -ionis</i> - joy
<i>peregre</i> - abroad	<i>comprehendo, -ere, -ndi, -nsum</i> (3) - to take hold of
<i>pusillum</i> - a little while	<i>comitatus, -us</i> - company, group
<i>caliginosus, -a, -um</i> - dark	<i>colligo, -ere, -egi, -ectum</i> (3) - to gather
<i>lignum, -i</i> - wood, esp. firewood	

### Reading Practice

*mulier vidua colligans ligna*

a widow-woman gathering sticks

*homo peregre proficiens*

a man setting out to a far country

*apparuit autem illi angelus de caelo, confortans eum*

and there appeared to Him an angel from heaven, strengthening Him

*audiens autem Herodes rex, turbatus est, et congregans omnes principes sacerdotum... Euntes, ibant et flebant, mittentes semina sua*

and King Herod, hearing this, was troubled, and calling together all the chief priests... Going they went and wept, casting their seeds

*Venientes autem venient cum exsultatione, portantes manipulos suos*

But coming they shall come with joy, carrying their sheaves

*Euntes ergo docete omnes gentes, baptizantes eos...docentes eos...*

Going therefore teach ye all nations, baptising them...teaching them...

*videntes autem stellam gavisii sunt gaudio magno valde*

and seeing the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy

**Exercise 2** Fill in the blanks with the appropriate word . Remember to distinguish between singular and plural :

<i>existimantes</i>	<i>videntes</i>	<i>stans</i>	<i>comprehendentes</i>	<i>videns</i>
---------------------	-----------------	--------------	------------------------	---------------

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <i>publicanus a longe _____</i>            | the publican <u>standing</u> afar off                 |
| 2. <i>et post pusillum alius _____ eum...</i> | and after a little while another <u>seeing</u> Him... |
| 3. <i>_____ autem illum esse in comitatu</i>  | and <u>thinking</u> that He was in the company        |
| 4. <i>_____ autem eum</i>                     | and <u>taking hold</u> of Him                         |
| 5. <i>et _____ eum adoraverunt</i>            | and <u>seeing</u> they adored                         |

### Reading Practice

Note : Extra care must be taken with Present Participles in the **Genitive** ('of') and **Dative** ('to'):

*fons aquae in vitam aeternam salientis* a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life  
*salientis* (gen. sing.) agrees with *aquae* ('of water')

*Protector in te sperantium, Deus* O God, the protector of all who hope in Thee  
*sperantium* (gen. pl.) means 'of all (those) hoping'

*haec est generatio quaerentium eum* this is the generation of them that seek Him  
*quaerentibus* (gen. pl.) means 'of (those) seeking'

*omni habenti dabitur* to everyone that hath shall be given  
*habenti* (dat. sing.) means 'to the one having'

*abundantia diligentibus te* plenteousness to them that love Thee  
*diligentibus* (dat. pl.) means 'to (those) loving'

*cui bene facitis attendentes, quasi lucernae lucenti  
in caliginoso loco* whereunto you do well to attend, as to a light that  
shineth in a dark place. *lucenti* (dat. sing.) means  
'shining' and agrees with *lucernae* ('to a light')

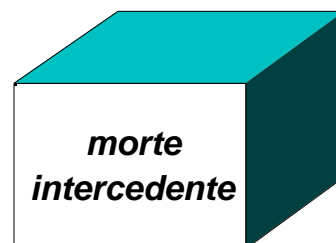
*adstantibus dixit...* to the bystanders He said... *adstantibus* (dat. pl.)  
means 'to those standing by'

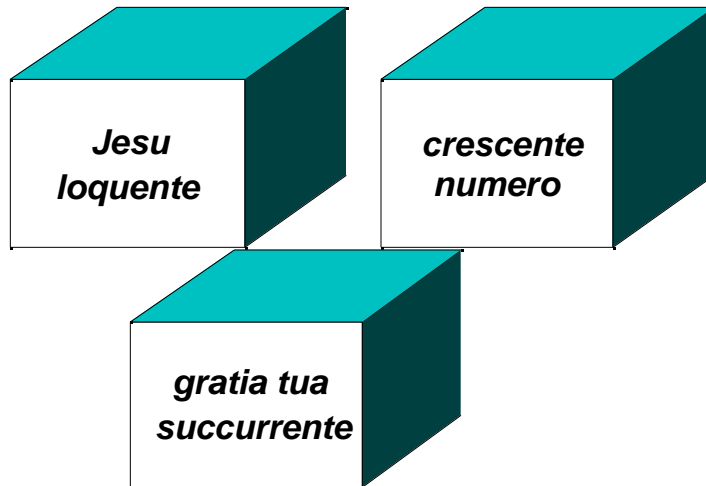
*Haec commixtio et consecratio Corporis et  
Sanguinis Domini nostri Jesu Christi fiat  
accipientibus nobis in vitam aeternam. Amen* May this mingling and consecration of the Body and  
Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ help us who receive it  
(lit. be unto us receiving) unto everlasting life. Amen

### 15.5 Ablative Constructions

There are many instances where both **Present Participle** and **Noun** are used together in the **Ablative** in a way that resembles the use of the **Ablative Absolute** in 15.2. Here, however, the action takes place in the Present rather than the Past.

Look at the following Ablative expressions :





They all consist of a familiar Noun in the Ablative : *angelo, vino, morte, Jesu, numero, gratia*, together with the Ablative form of the Present Participle (see 15.3) :

<i>nuntiante</i>	announcing
<i>deficiente</i>	failing, running out
<i>intercedente</i>	interceding
<i>loquente</i>	speaking
<i>crescente</i>	growing
<i>succurrente</i>	helping

Now look at the table below which helps you to understand their literal and real meaning :

ABLATIVE PHRASE	LITERAL TRANSLATION	CORRECT TRANSLATION
<i>Jesu loquente ad turbas</i>	with Jesus talking to the crowds	Jesus was speaking to the crowds
<i>angelo nuntiante</i>	with an angel announcing	by the message of an angel
<i>morte intercedente</i>	with his death interceding	by his death
<i>crescente numero discipulorum</i>	with the number growing of the disciples	when the number of disciples was increasing
<i>gratia tua succurrente</i>	with Thy grace helping	with the help of Thy grace
<i>deficiente vino</i>	with the wine failing	when they had run out of wine

A very common example of this construction is found in many Postcommunion prayers where the priest implores the divine assistance through the intercession of a particular saint or saints. This is how it is phrased :

<i>intercedente beato Polycarpo Martyre tuo atque Pontifice</i>	by the intercession of blessed Polycarp Thy martyr and bishop
<i>intercedentibus Sanctis tuis Cyrillo et Methodio</i>	by the intercession of Thy Saints Cyril and Methodius
<i>interveniente beato Bartholomaeo Apostolo tuo</i>	through the help of Thy blessed Apostle Bartholomew

Note how the Latin version is bound within a rigid structure in which all the Participles and Nouns are in the Ablative, whilst the English translation allows more scope for freedom and variety of expression.

**Exercise 3** Translate the following :

1. *intercedentibus Sanctis tuis*
2. *intercedente beata Virgine Dei Genitrice Maria*
3. *intercedentibus beatis Apostolis tuis Simone et Juda*
4. *beato Matthaeo Apostolo tuo et Evangelista interveniente*
5. *Sancto Pio Summo Pontifice intercedente*

Note : a Pronoun in the Ablative can be used instead of a Noun as in the following examples :

**Reading Practice**

<i>te inspirante</i>	by Thy inspiration (lit. with Thee inspiring)
<i>te gubernante</i>	by Thy guidance (lit. with Thee governing)
<i>revelante te</i>	on Thy revelation (lit. with Thee revealing)
<i>te autem eleemosynam faciente</i>	and when thou dost alms (lit. with thee doing...)
<i>et continuo adhuc illo loquente cantavit gallus</i>	and immediately <u>while he was still speaking</u> the cock crew (lit. 'with Him speaking')
<i>adhuc eo loquente, ecce Judas, uno de duodecim, venit</i>	<u>while He was yet speaking</u> , lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came
<i>et cum haec dixisset, videntibus illis, elevatus est</i>	and when He had said these things, in their sight (lit. with <u>them looking</u> ) He was raised up

**15.6 THE FUTURE PARTICIPLE**

**-urus**

- This construction, recognisable by its ending **-urus** appears very infrequently, and so you are not likely to come across many instances of it.
- The Future Participle is inflected like a 2nd Declension Adjective (see 4.5/1)
- It has a variety of translations, most often 'about to' or 'going to', but it can also be translated in a straightforward 'future' way by 'will..' or 'shall..' Here are a few examples :

<i>iterum venturus est cum gloria</i>	He <u>will come</u> again with glory
<i>vitam venturi saeculi</i>	the life of the world ( <u>going</u> ) <u>to come</u> <i>venturi</i> (gen. sing.) agrees with <i>saeculi</i> ('of the world')
<i>qui eripuit nos ab iram venturam</i>	Who hath delivered us from the wrath <u>to come</u>
<i>calicem quem ego bibiturus sum</i>	the chalice which I am <u>about to drink</u>



*Dominus daturus est pluuiam super faciem terrae*

The Lord will give rain upon the face of the earth

*Audituri enim estis proelia, et opiniones  
proeliorum*

And you shall hear of wars and rumours of wars

*qui credituri sunt per verbum eorum in me*

those who through their word will believe in Me

*ecce qui judicaturus est vivos et mortuos*

behold Him who shall judge the living and the dead