

DE PARTICIPIIS

MEMENTO:

1. Participles are verbal adjectives.
2. As adjectives, participles can modify nouns or pronouns, and sometimes they can stand alone.
3. As verbals, participles indicate an action and (if in active voice) can take objects.

1. Participles are verbal adjectives. Here are some participles with the nouns and pronouns that they modify. Notice that each participle is derived from a verb.

The <u>shining</u> sun.	to <u>shine</u>
The <u>waning</u> moon.	to <u>wane</u>
The <u>crying</u> child.	to <u>cry</u>
The <u>running</u> water.	to <u>run</u>
Those <u>qualifying</u> for a rebate.	to <u>qualify</u>
The book <u>loved</u> by millions.	to <u>love</u>

Regular adjectives (for example: *large, many, upper, red, crusty, these*) do not relate as directly to verbs as participles do.

2. Like adjectives, participles can be used as “substantives.”

Examples of adjectives used substantively:

The <u>injured</u> need help.	the injured [people]
The <u>swift</u> have an opportunity.	the swift [people]
How can we achieve the greater <u>good</u> ?	the good [reality]

The nouns in the right column are implied but not explicitly stated.

Participles can be used the same way. The following participles are used substantively; that is to say that they stand for persons, places, or things just as nouns do. Next to each is the full meaning of the participle.

See the <u>following</u> .	the following [items]
Find the <u>dispossessed</u> .	the dispossessed [people]
Care for the <u>dying</u> and the <u>wounded</u> .	the dying [persons] and the wounded [persons]
Join the <u>blessed</u> .	the blessed [people].

3. As verbals, participles can do something that ordinary adjectives cannot do. Active participles can have objects.

Catching the ball, the receiver fell to his knees.
Reading the Latin poem, the lady swooned.
Studying participles, the students sat in silent amazement.

Here is a famous Latin example of a participle taking an object:

Timeō Danaōs et dona ferentēs = I fear the Greeks even [when they are] bearing gifts. (Vergil, *Aeneid* 2.49)

MEANINGS AND FORMS OF LATIN PARTICIPLES

First a few statements about verbal actions: 1) verbal actions can be active or passive and 2) verbal action can indicate activity happening a) in the past, b) now, c) in the future. Therefore, considering voice and tense, there are 6 possible states of verbal action. Only the following four states appear in Latin: **present active, perfect passive, future active, and future passive.**

MEANINGS OF LATIN PARTICIPLES

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
PRESENT	"[verb]+ing" e.g. "destroying, capturing, spending"	NO LATIN FORM
PERFECT	NO LATIN FORM	"having been [verb]+ed/t" or "[verb]+ed/t" e.g. "(having been) destroyed, captured, spent"
FUTURE	"about to [verb]" e.g. "about to destroy"	"about to be [verb]+ed/t" e.g. "about to be destroyed"

LATIN FORMS

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
PRESENT Time Contemporaneous	Present Stem (lengthened) + ns, ntis (same endings as poteNS, poteNTIS) laudā + ns -> laudāns, "praising"	NO LATIN FORM
PERFECT Time Subsequent	NO LATIN FORM	Fourth Principle Part laudātus -a -um, "praised"
FUTURE Time Prior	Fourth Principle Part Stem + ur + us -a -um laudāt + ūr + us -a -um -> laudātūrus -a -um "about to praise"	Present Stem (lengthened) + nd + us -a -um laudā + nd + us -a -um -> laudāndus -a -um "about to be praised" ***usually implies obligation***