

Present Participles

Chapter 17

Definition & Description

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Participles in English

A participle is a **verbal adjective**: “-ing” or “-ed”
is usually added to the verb stem.

“The **running** girl”

“The **fixed** faucet”

Definition & Description

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Participles in Greek

Since a participle is a **verbal adjective**, Greek participles
have the form of both a verb and an adjective.

Verb

Tense (present, aorist, perfect)

Voice (active, middle, passive)

Mood (participle)

Adjective

Gender, Case, Number

Morphology & Paradigms

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

One out of every 20 words (about one per verse) in
the Greek NT is a participle.

Pay particular attention to the **masculine** forms
because they occur **7 times** more than the feminine
and neuter combined!

There are **NO imperfect** participle forms and only a
few (13 in the NT) **future** participle forms.

Present **Active** Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

λυο

1. Connecting Vowel

Present **Active** Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

λυοντ

1. Connecting Vowel

2. Infix

Present **Active** Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

λυοντος

1. Connecting Vowel

2. Infix

3. Adjectival Ending

Present **Active** Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

λύοντος

1. Connecting Vowel

2. Infix

3. Adjectival Ending

Present **Active** Participle (Masc.)

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Case	Singular	Plural
N.	λύων	λύοντες
G.	λύοντος	λύόντων
D.	λύοντι	λύουσι(ν)
A.	λύοντα	λύοντας

Notice: the masculine (and neuter) forms follow the 3rd declension endings. The dative pl. is the same as the PAI 3 pl. The -ντ- infix communicates the active voice.

Present **Active** Participles

	Singular			Plural		
	Masc	Fem	Neut	Masc	Fem	Neut
N.	λύων	λύουσα	λύον	λύοντες	λύουσαι	λύοντα
G.	λύοντος	λυούσης	λύοντος	λύόντων	λυουσῶν	λύόντων
D.	λύοντι	λυούσῃ	λύοντι	λύουσι(ν)	λυούσαις	λύουσι(ν)
A.	λύοντα	λύουσιν	λύον	λύοντας	λυούσας	λύοντα

Present Participles—εἰμί

	Singular			Plural		
	Masc	Fem	Neut	Masc	Fem	Neut
N.	ὢν	οὔσα	ὄν	δντες	οὔσαι	δντα
G.	δντος	οὔσης	δντος	δντων	οὔσων	δντων
D.	δντι	οὔσῃ	δντι	οὔσι(ν)	οὔσαις	οὔσι(ν)
A.	δντα	οὔσαν	δν	δντας	οὔσας	δντα

Present **Mid/Pass** Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

λυο

1. Connecting Vowel

Present **Mid/Pass** Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

λυο**μεν**

1. Connecting Vowel

2. Infix

Present **Mid/Pass** Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

λυο**μενος**

1. Connecting Vowel

2. Infix

3. Adjectival Ending

Present **Mid/Pass** Participle (Masc.)

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Case	Singular	Plural
N.	λυόμε νος	λυόμε νοι
G.	λυομέ νου	λυομέ νων
D.	λυομέ νῳ	λυομέ νοις
A.	λυόμε νον	λυόμε νους

Notice: the mid/pass forms follow the 1st and 2nd declension endings. The **-μεν- infix** communicates that the voice is middle or passive.

Present Mid/Pass Participles

	Singular			Plural		
	Masc	Fem	Neut	Masc	Fem	Neut
N.	λυόμε νος	λυομέ νη	λυόμε νον	λυόμε νοι	λυόμε ναι	λυόμε να
G.	λυομέ νου	λυομέ νης	λυομέ νου	λυομέ νων	λυομέ νων	λυομέ νων
D.	λυομέ νῳ	λυομέ νῃ	λυομέ νῳ	λυομέ νοις	λυομέ ναις	λυομέ νοις
A.	λυόμε νον	λυομέ νην	λυόμε νον	λυομέ νους	λυομέ νας	λυόμε να

Morphology

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Contract Verbs

The vowel of the stem will sometimes contract with the participle ending

ἀγαπάω → αγαπα + οντι → ἀγαπῶ**ντι**

καλέω → καλε + οντος → καλοῦ**ντος**

πληρώω → πληρο + ομενον → πληροῦ**μενον**

The contraction will sometimes be indicated by a **circumflex** (esp. in present active forms).

Morphology

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

Participle = Verbal Adjective

Verb

Tense (present, aorist, perfect)

Voice (active, middle, passive)

Mood (participle)

Adjective

Gender, Case, Number

Parsing

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Participle	Lex. Form	T. V. M.	G. C. N.
λύων	λύω	P, A, Ptc	M, N, Sg
λυομέναις	λύω	P, M/P, Ptc	F, D, Pl
ὄντος	εἰμί	P, A, Ptc	M/N, G, Sg

Participle Uses

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Participles in Greek

Because a participle is an adjective, it can be placed into one of the three adjectival positions.

Attributive

Substantive

Predicate

The position into which a participle is placed determines its **function** in the sentence: attributive, substantive, predicate (**adverbial**).

Attributive Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Attributive Adjective Position

The article (when present) occurs **directly in front** of the participle which modifies an expressed noun or pronoun.

It is often best to translate an attributive participle with an English **relative clause** ("who" or "which/that").

Attributive Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Present Attributive Participles

The participle agrees with the noun it modifies in gender, case, and number.

ὁ πατήρ ὁ βλέπων

"the father **who sees**"

ὁ προφήτης ὁ ἐρχόμενος

"the prophet **who comes**"

Substantive Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Substantive Adjective Position

A substantive is an adjective that functions as a noun. The article (when present) occurs **directly in front** of the participle which modifies an unexpressed noun or pronoun.

A substantival participle is really an attributive participle whose modified noun is **unexpressed**.

Substantive Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Present Substantive Participles

It is usually best to translate a substantival participle as "the one who" + verbal meaning.

ὁ βλέπων

"the one who sees"

ὁ ἐρχόμενος

"the one who comes"

Sometimes this type of participle loses its verbal force and becomes a mere noun, describing an occupation or characteristic activity (e.g., ὁ ἀρχων, "the one who rules" = "the ruler").

Adverbial Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Predicate Adjective Position

The article is **NOT** directly in front of the participle. Often has a **temporal** focus (related to time).

With a present temporal participle, the action of the participle often occurs **at the same time** (contemporaneous) with the action of the main verb (whether the main verb is past, present, or future).

Most adverbial participles are in the nominative case.

Adverbial Participles

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Temporal Adverbial Participles

ταῦτα **εἶπεν** **ἐν** συναγωγῇ **διδάσκων** **ἐν** Καφαρναούμ

"these things **he said** in the synagogue **while teaching** in Capernaum"

βλέπων δὲ τὸν ἀνεμὸν **ἐφοβήθη**

"But **when he saw** the wind, **he was afraid**"

Participle Voice

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Participles and Voices

Since participles are **verbal** adjectives, they can be in one of three voices: **active**, **middle** or **passive**.

πιστὸς ὁ **καλῶν** ὑμᾶς the one who **calls** you is faithful

τοῖς **ἐπικαλουμένοις** τὸ ὄνομα to the ones who **call on** the name

καλούμενος ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ when **he is called** by God

Participle Voice

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Recognizing Active Participles

The **masculine** and **neuter** active infix is **-οντ-** to which third declension endings are added. The **feminine** infix is **-ουσ-** to which first declension endings are added.

Masculine

λύ**ον**τος

Neuter

λύ**ον**τος

Feminine

λυ**ού**σης

Participle Voice

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Recognizing Middle/Passive Participles

The distinguishing trait of the middle or passive form is the infix **-μεν-** to which the regular adjectival endings are attached.

Masculine

λυ**όμε**νος

Neuter

λυ**όμε**νον

Feminine

λυ**ομέ**νη

Participles & Aspect

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Tenses in Greek

The **time** of the action is NOT determined by the participle, but by the **main verb**. Instead, the Greek tense-form communicates the author's perspective on the action.

In the **indicative mood** there are **six tenses**: Present, Imperfect, Future, Aorist, Perfect, and Pluperfect. These verbs communicate:

1. **Time of action** (past, present, future)
2. **Kind of action** (imperfective, perfective, stative)

Participles & Aspect

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Tenses in Greek

Non-indicative verbs only communicate **kind** of action (aspect) and **NOT time** of action.

1. Imperfective: Present and Imperfect
2. Perfective: Perfect and Aorist
3. Stative: Perfect and Pluperfect

Participles & Aspect

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Tenses in Greek

Non-indicative verbs only communicate **kind** of action (aspect) and **NOT time** of action.

1. Imperfective: Present (action in progress)
2. Perfective: Aorist (action viewed as a whole)
3. Stative: Perfect (action complete with resulting state)

Participles & Aspect

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν κηρύσσων

“Jesus **came** into Galilee **while** he was **preaching**”

βλέπει τὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐρχόμενον πρὸς αὐτόν

“**he sees** Jesus **while he is coming** to him”

πολλοὶ γὰρ ἐλεύσονται ἐπὶ τῷ ὀνόματί μου λέγοντες

“For many **will come** in my name **saying**...”

Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

φανερῶ, I reveal, make known,
manifest (phantom, epiphany)
κρατέω, I grasp, seize, arrest (democracy)
εἷς, μία, ἓν, one (hendiadys)
δύο, two (duet)
τρεῖς, three (triad)

Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

τέσσαρες, four (tesseract)
πέντε, five (Pentagon)
ἐπτά, seven (heptagon)
δέκα, ten (decimeter)
δώδεκα, twelve (dodecagon)

Vocabulary

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

πρῶτος, -η, -ον, first (prototype)
δεύτερος, -α, -ον, second (Deuteronomy)
τρίτος, -η, -ον, third (tricycle)
τέταρτος, -η, -ον, fourth (tetrarch)
μή, no, not (employed with non-indicative verbs)