

Resolve Participles – PRRP

Parse

Referent

Relative time

Position

Step One: Parse the Participle (six categories)

Tense – present, aorist, or perfect

[Mood – participle (verbal adjective)]

Voice – active, middle, or passive

Gender – masculine, feminine, or neuter

Number – singular or plural

Case – nominative, genitive, dative, or accusative

Step Two: Identify Referent

- Since a participle is an adjective, it will always agree with its referent in gender, number, and case.
- To find the participle's referent, identify a noun or pronoun in the clause that has the same gender, number, and case as the participle.
- A participle's referent is its subject.

Note, however, that a substantive participle (see below) will not have a referent.

Step Three: Establish Relative Time

- Participles do not have time. Their time is relative to the main verb of the sentence. **So identify and parse the main verb.**
- Present participles – relative time is **same time as the main verb.**
- Aorist participles – relative time is **one step back in time from the main verb.**

Rules for present participles = same time as the main verb

- When the participle is **present** and the main verb is present verb translate the participle as a **present** indicative verb.
- When the participle is **present** and the main verb is past tense translate the participle as an **imperfect** indicative verb.

Rules for aorist participles = one step back in time from the main verb

- When the participle is **aorist** and the main verb is future tense translate the participle as **present** tense
- When the participle is **aorist** and the main verb is present tense translate the participle as **simple past** tense
- When the participle is **aorist** and the main verb is past tense translate the participle as a **pluperfect** indicative verb.

Step Four: Identify Position

- Attributive position – translate as a relative clause/who-clause.
- Predicate position – translate as an adverbial clause
 - Three common options:
 - Temporal clause:
 - Introduced by “while” or “as” when the participle is present.
 - Introduced by “after” when the participle is aorist.

- Causal clause: Introduced by “because” or “since.”
 - Concessive clause: Introduced by “although” or “even though”
 - In addition, there still are other uses of predicate participles.
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- Substantive – translate as a substantive adjective; participle functions as a noun