

In translating present participles, the following rules work well. Use “while” as the subordinating conjunction that adds the participle phrase to the sentence. The following example uses the verb βλέπω (to see). If the leading verb is...

1. future or present, translate the participle as present. βλέπων τὸν κύριον ἐσθίω. While I *see* the Lord, I eat.
2. past, translate the participle as past. βλέπων τὸν κύριον ἔφαγον. While I *saw* the Lord, I ate.

In translating aorist participles, the following rules work well. Use “after” as the subordinating conjunction that adds the participle phrase to the sentence. The following example uses the verb βλέπω (to see). If the leading verb is...

1. future or present, translate the participle as perfect. ἰδὼν τὸν κύριον ἐσθίω. After I *have seen* the Lord, I eat.
2. past, translate the participle as pluperfect. ἰδὼν τὸν κύριον ἔφαγον. After I *had seen* the Lord, I ate.

Genitive absolute is a non-substantive use and uses the above rules, but know that the subject of the participle phrase is in the genitive case and is not found in the main clause. The participle and its subject will both be genitive.

If the participle uses an article, the participle is substantive, that is, it does not behave like an adverbial condition but directly modifies a subject or object (a noun).

1. For translation add a noun or pronoun as the subject or object. Pick the noun depending on the number and gender of the article and participle.

|           |          |             |
|-----------|----------|-------------|
|           |          |             |
| Masculine | Singular | Man or one  |
| Masculine | Plural   | Men or ones |
| Feminine  | Singular | Woman       |
| Feminine  | Plural   | Women       |
| Neuter    | Singular | Thing       |
| Neuter    | Plural   | Things      |

2. Then add a relative clause with the appropriate relative pronoun

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
|                       |      |
| Masculine or Feminine | Who  |
| Neuter                | That |

3. Then translate the participle as an indicative verb in the voice of the participle. Determine verb tense as suggested in the Non-substantive use.

Example: ταῦτα εἶπομεν περὶ τοῦ σώσαντος ἡμᾶς.

|       |              |            |     |            |       |
|-------|--------------|------------|-----|------------|-------|
| ταῦτα | εἶπομεν      | περὶ       | τοῦ | σώσαντος   | ἡμᾶς  |
| αὐτός | λέγω         |            | ὁ   | σῶζω       | ἡμεῖς |
| NAP   | AAI-1P       | Prep. Gen. | MGS | AAP-MGS    | AIP   |
| This  | Say          | Concerning | The | Save       | Us    |
|       | Leading verb |            |     | Participle |       |

1. Translate the main clause:
2. Add the object of the preposition (περὶ). Since the participle is masculine and singular, use “one” and “who.”  
*one who*
3. The leading verb and participle are both aorist so use pluperfect tense of save (=had saved).  
*one who*