37. Perfect Participles

Lesson in a Nutshell

Perfect participles are based on the perfect tense stem.

- Active voice will contain κοτ or κυια. They follow the 3-1-3 pattern.
- Middle/passive voice will contain μεν. They follow the 2-1-2 pattern.

Present participles convey perfected aspect.

In this chapter, we will learn how to recognize and translate perfect participles. Let's begin with recognition.

Perfect Participles					
active κοτ, κυια, κοτ 3-1-3			middle / passive μενο, μενη, μενο 2-1-2		
M (3)	F (1)	N (3)	M (2)	F (1)	N (2)
λελυκώς	λελυκυῖα	λελυκός	λελυμένος	λελυμένη	λελυμένον
λελυκότος	λελυκυίας	λελυκότος	λελυμένου	λελυμένης	λελυμένου
λελυκότι	λελυκυίᾳ	λελυκότι	λελυμένῳ	λελυμένῃ	λελυμένῳ
λελυκότα	λελυκυῖαν	λελυκός	λελυμένον	λελυμένην	λελυμένον
λελυκότες	λελυκυῖαι	λελυκότα	λελυμένοι	λελυμέναι	λελυμένα
λελυκότων	λελυκυιῶν	λελυκότων	λελυμένων	λελυμένων	λελυμένων
λελυκόσιν	λελυκυίαις	λελυκόσιν	λελυμένοις	λελυμέναις	λελυμένοις
λελυκότας	λελυκυίας	λελυκότα	λελυμένους	λελυμένας	λελυμένα

How To Parse a Perfect Participle

Hopefully by now, the number of forms does not even faze you. It is the same old routine, just a few patterns to notice, not dozens of forms to memorize.

Again, (and again and again) allow me to remind you that we are trying to discover the tense and voice, case, number and gender. We already know most of this.

Tense

Perfect tense is recognized in the ways we have already learned.

➡ reduplication!

➡ κ in the active and no connecting vowel in the middle / passive.

Voice

Once again, we recognize the voice from the participle morpheme.

➡ Active: κοτ or κυια

➡ Middle / Passive: μεν

Case, Number, Gender

Perfect active participles follow the 3-1-3 pattern of declension.

Perfect middle / passive participles follow the 2-1-2 pattern of declension.

I am really overdoing it, but here is a comparison with πάς and the article. Concentrate on the endings. I am trying to drive home the point that these endings are everywhere, and that you already know them.

Comparison of the perfect active participle with πάς

active κοτ, κυια, κοτ 3-1-3		
M (3)	F (1)	N (3)
λελυκώς	λελυκυῖα	λελυκός
λελυκότος	λελυκυίας	λελυκότος
λελυκότι	λελυκυίᾳ	λελυκότι
λελυκότα	λελυκυῖαν	λελυκός
λελυκότες	λελυκυῖαι	λελυκότα
λελυκότων	λελυκυιῶν	λελυκότων
λελυκόσιν	λελυκυίαις	λελυκόσιν
λελυκότας	λελυκυίας	λελυκότα

24 forms of πας (3-1-3)			
	3 masc	1 fem	3 neut
N	πας	πασα	παν
G	παντος	πασης	παντος
D	παντι	πασῃ	παντι
A	παντα	πασαν	παν
N	παντες	πασαι	παντα
G	παντων	πασων	παντων
D	πασι[ν]	πασαις	πασι[ν]
A	παντας	πασας	παντα

<u>Comparison of the perfect middle / passive participle with the article</u>

middle / passive μενο, μενη, μενο 2-1-2		
M (2)	F (1)	N (2)
λελυμένος	λελυμένη	λελυμένον
λελυμένου	λελυμένης	λελυμένου
λελυμένῳ	λελυμένη	λελυμένῳ
λελυμένον	λελυμένην	λελυμένον
λελυμένοι	λελυμέναι	λελυμένα
λελυμένων	λελυμένων	λελυμένων
λελυμένοις	λελυμέναις	λελυμένοις
λελυμένους	λελυμένας	λελυμένα

The Article			M (2)	F (1)	N (2)
Singular	Nominative	"the"	ὁ	ἡ	τό
	Genitive	"of the"	τοῦ	τῆς	τοῦ
	Dative	"to the"	τῷ	τῇ	τῷ
	Accusative	the	τόν	τήν	τό
Plural	Nominative	"the"	οἱ	αἱ	τά
	Genitive	"of the"	τῶν	τῶν	τῶν
	Dative	"to the"	τοῖς	ταῖς	τοῖς
	Accusative	"the"	τούς	τάς	τά

Let's Practice

Here are a few examples to demonstrate.

πεπιστευκότες

(having believed)

Let's break it into pieces to examine.

πε πιστευ κότ ες

➡ The reduplication and κ tell me it is perfect tense.

➡ κοτ tells me this is an active participle.

➡ ες is the nominative plural, masculine case ending in the third declension.

So to parse πεπιστευκότες we describe it as a perfect, active participle, nominative, plural, masculine.

Here's another:

<p align="center">πεπιστευμένος</p>

<p align="center">(having been believed)</p>

<p align="center">breaking it into pieces…</p>

<p align="center">πε πιστευ μέν ος</p>

➡ The reduplication tells me this is perfect tense.

➡ μεν tells me this is a middle / passive participle.

➡ ος is the nominative singular, masculine case ending in the second declension.

So to parse πεπιστευμένος we describe it as a perfect, middle or passive participle, nominative, singular, masculine.

<p align="center" style="color:blue">That is how you parse a perfect participle.</p>

<p align="center">Now let's look at some perfect participles in sentences.
Remember that the only difference in meaning will be that of aspect.</p>

How To Use The Perfect Participle

Adjectival Participle

ὁ ἄνθρωπος ὁ γεγεννημένος ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ ἁμαρτίαν οὐ ποιεῖ.
the   man   *   having been born   from   *   God   sin   not he practices.

γεγεννημένος is a perfect, passive participle, nominative, singular, masculine (from γεννάω).

★ γεγεννημένος is adjectival. It modifies ὁ ἄνθρωπος.
★ The case, number and gender of the participle match the case, number and gender of the noun being modified (ὁ ἀνὴρ).
★ The underlined words are the participial phrase.
★ IMPORTANT: The adjectival participle almost always has the article.

Substantival Participle

ὁ γεγεννημένος ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ ἁμαρτίαν οὐ ποιεῖ.

The	having been born	from	*	God	sin		not	he practices.
= The (one who)	has been born from	*		God	sin		not	he practices.

γεγεννημένος is a perfect, passive participle, nominative, singular, masculine.

- ★ γεγεννημένος is substantival. There is no noun to modify.
- ★ The case, number and gender match the implied subject. (The man[1] who has been born of God.)
- ★ The smoothed out version adds the implied subject. This is a legitimate translation.
- ★ The underlined words are the participial phrase.
- ★ IMPORTANT: The substantival participle almost always has the article.

Adverbial Participle

Ἐγένετο ἄνθρωπος ἀπεσταλμένος παρὰ θεοῦ.

came		a man		having been sent		from	God.

ἀπεσταλμένος is a perfect, passive participle, nominative, singular, masculine (from ἀποστέλλω).

- ★ ἀπεσταλμένος is adverbial. It tells us more about Ἐγένετο.
- ★ The case, number and gender match ἄνθρωπος.
- ★ The underlined words are the participial phrase.
- ★ IMPORTANT: The adverbial participle **never** has the article.

Now try your hand at translating the sentences in the workbook. Again, do not become discouraged if you find these difficult. Remember, this is your first semester of Greek!

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[1] In this case the masculine form is gender inclusive, much in the same way as in older English "mankind" referred to all humanity, not just males.