

Year 3 Term 2 Week 10 Day 1 Grammar Revision Participles¹



The **Present Participle** (ending in -ing in English) and the **Past Participle** (usually ending in -ed, -d, -t, or -n) have an adjectival function and may also have a verbal function:

A **jumping** cracker. A **fallen** idol.

I hear the lark **singing**. I saw the boxer **beaten**.

Opening his purse, he drew out a shilling.

(**Opening** is an adjective qualifying **he**, and also a verb with **purse** as its object.)

Write down a few examples similar to the ones above. The picture will give you one!

In the last translation exercise (Y3T2W9D4) there were four participles. They have different functions in Latin. *Missus*, *relictis* and *constitua* are participles that function rather as described above for English participles. *Claudius... missus* literally “sent Claudius” “Claudius being sent/having been sent” you might even translate it “when Claudius was sent he...”. *Quingentis veteranis... relictis* is similar but notice that the words are in the ablative case. This is an example of a participle used to form the ablative absolute, “**with** five hundred veterans left” (as in “with/from/by” for the ablative case) works well here or you could say “five hundred veterans being left”. *Die Constitua* is similar; literally “the appointed day” so “on the appointed day.”

The other participle is *profectus*. To form the passive voice of verbs in Latin we use the participle plus the verb to be: *amatus sum*, *amatus es...* and so on. This pattern is also used for those verbs which are deponent i.e. they look like passive verbs but are really active. *Proficisci* “to set out” is a deponent verb so *profectus est* just means he set out.

The website <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/stage-2-latin/lessons/lesson-19-participles-present-past-and-future/> gives a thorough lesson on participles which might be useful for revision. Keep in view that the important thing is to be able to sort out the participles followed by the verb “to be” (which are therefore either passive or deponent verbs) from other participles (which will be words that look like nouns from their endings but are formed from verbs). Once you have identified these other participles, look round for a noun or a pronoun that has the same case, gender and number ending and put the two words together.

¹ The picture is Frans Hal's “Laughing Cavalier”.