

"How to Classify those Pesky Participles"
(with thanks to James L. Boyer, "The Classification of Participles")

First ask yourself...does it have an article?

IF NO...

If it agrees in case, gender, and number with a substantive and seems to be an adjective (NA or AN) = Attributive (NA - 353x, AN - 23x)

If it is in 1st attributive position with substantive (TAN) = Attributive (101x in the NT) - usually translated as a relative clause or adverb

If it is in the 2nd predicate position (TNA) in agreement in case, number, gender (20x) = Predicate meaning

If it seems to have a subject in the accusative and follows a verb of seeing, hearing, knowing, appearing, proving, commanding, saying, etc. = Indirect Discourse (15x in the NT; best translated as a relative clause)

If it is genitive with a genitive substantive and no relation to the main verb = Genitive Absolute (343x in the NT) - usually translated "while" or "when"

If used with (usually after) linking verb (i.e., εἶμι or γίνομαι) = Periphrastic (if it expresses verbal sense, 271x) or Predicate Adjective (if it expresses adjective to a noun (135x). These are almost always pres. ptc. (153x) or perf. ptc. (115x).

If with a Verb meaning begin, continue, cease, rejoice, be displeased in, happen, perceive, or find = Complementary, completing a Vague Verb (296x; Example: "he continued running to the store")

If a participle of speaking (such as λαλῶν, ἀποκριθεὶς) following another verb of speaking, usually in Gospels, Acts, or Revelation = Pleonasm (by Semitic influence; 280x)

If standing as the main verb in a sentence and demanding a response = Imperative (21x in the NT)

If used with another verb it is Adverbial (modifies the main verb, these appear 2881 times in the NT), and may be...

If indicating an action that goes along with of main verb, or if several categories seem to fit = Adverbial of Attendant Circumstance ("running, he went to the store" or "he ran and went to the store")

If indicating the time of main verb = Adverbial of Time ("while running, he went to the store")

If indicating the cause of main verb, sometimes with = Adverbial of Cause ("because he was running, he went to the store")

If indicating a condition on which the main verb depends = Adverbial of Condition ("if he was running, he went to the store")

If indicating an expected impediment to the main verb = Adverbial of Concession ("though he was running, he went to the store")

If indicating the means of main verb = Adverbial of Means ("by running, he went to the store")

If indicating the manner of main verb = Adverbial of Manner ("by running, he went to the store")

If indicating the purpose of main verb = Adverbial of Purpose ("in order to run, he went to the store")

* Rarely, a substantive participle may be anarthrous, like an anarthrous noun (128x in the NT)

IF YES...

If it is in the 2nd attributive position with a substantive (NTA - 97x, usually with proper names; or TNTA - 276x) = Attributive

If not, it is probably a Substantive Attributive, acting as a noun (like an English gerund) - most frequent by far, 1467x, most of which are present participles