

Genitive Absolute

When You Need to Change the Subject

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app
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The Subjects of Participles

- Usually the subject of an adverbial participle is the same as the subject of the verb it modifies.

[Θελησας ἄρτον τινα], τη ἀγορᾷ πορευεται.

Because she wants some bread, she is going into the market.



What If the Participial Subject is Different?

- Genitive absolute
 - Place the participle in the genitive case
 - Also any explicit subject of the participle
 - No equivalent for this in English

[Θελησαντος ἄρτον **του** αὐτης **τεκνου**], τη ἀγορᾷ **πορευεται**.

Because **her child** wants bread, **she** is going into the market.



What If the Participial Subject is Different?

- Genitive absolute
 - Place the participle in the genitive case
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Regular
participle

[Πορευσαμενη **Μαρια** τη ἀγορά], οὐκ ἄρτον **ἤγορασα**.

Although **Maria** went to the market, **she** didn't buy bread.

Genitive
absolute

[Πορευσαμενης **Μαρίας** τη ἀγορά], οὐκ ἄρτον **ἔπωλησεν**.

Although **Maria** went to the market, **he** didn't sell bread.



Keep Learning

- You can learn more about the genitive absolute here:
 - Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek* (3rd edition)
 - Genitive absolute, 30.9-30.13 (pp. 278-280)
 - Wallace, *Basics of New Testament Syntax* (1st edition)
 - "Cases," genitive absolute, pp. 284-285

