

If we want to use an impersonal verb in an absolute construction, the participle of this verb must be *in accusative* (always singular neuter), not in genitive; but the regime of the verb will remain unchanged. For instance, we know that **ἔξεσσι** rules a dative:

- **ἔξεσσι τῷ Σωκράτει** ἀποφεύγειν IT IS POSSIBLE FOR SOCRATES TO FLEE (in English, we would rather say SOCRATES HAS THE POSSIBILITY OF FLEEING).

Then, if we want to say (literally) IT BEING POSSIBLE FOR SOCRATES TO ESCAPE, THE DISCIPLES PREPARED EVERYTHING, we must express the IT BEING POSSIBLE *in accusative* (singular neuter always), but of course FOR SOCRATES will go on being in dative since the regime of the verb is the same:

- **ἔξὸν τῷ Σωκράτει** ἀποφεύγειν, οἱ μαθηταὶ πάντα παρεσκεύασαν IT BEING POSSIBLE FOR SOCRATES TO FLEE, HIS DISCIPLES PREPARED EVERYTHING.
- **ἔξὸν δ' ἡμῖν** ἐν εἰρήνῃ πολιτεύεσθαι, οὗτοι ... πόλεμον ἡμῖν πρὸς ἀλλήλους παρέχουσιν IT BEING POSSIBLE FOR US TO LIVE IN PEACE LIKE CITIZENS, THESE... BRING WAR AGAINST EACH OTHER TO US (Xenophon, *Hellenicā*).

b) Main difference with a Genitive Absolute

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1/ In an accusative absolute construction, aside from the fact that the participle is in the accusative case, there is no subject (they are impersonal verbs) that agrees with it in the same case (unlike in the genitive absolute, where the subject had to be in the genitive case), but just a complement in the case as needed by the verb:

- **ἔξὸν τῷ Περικλεῖ** τοὺς πολίτας πείθειν, μακρὸν λόγον ἐποίησατο IT BEING POSSIBLE FOR PERICLES TO PERSUADE THE CITIZENS, HE MADE A LARGE SPEECH.

Pericles is both the *object* of the accusative absolute and the *subject* of the main sentence; remember that in a genitive absolute the subject of the main sentence can not be found also in the genitive absolute part. This is different in an accusative absolute construction.

2/ However, it might also be the case that no object is specified:

- **πολλά με ἀνακρίνεις, ὃ οὗτος, ἤδη πίνειν δέον** YOU ARE ASKING ME MANY QUESTIONS, WHEN WE SHOULD ALREADY BE DRINKING (Lucian, *Saturnalia*).

The **δέον** is not accompanied by any specific accusative saying *for whom* it is necessary to drink, the translation we have deduced from the general context.

c) Additional meaning

[401]

As in the genitive absolute, the accusative absolute can also convey some specific circumstantial meanings. Let's see an example with a clear concessive meaning and another one with a clear comparative meaning:

- ὁ δὲ Ἑρμῆς βραδύνει, **πάλαι παρεῖναι δέον** HERMES GOES SLOWLY, ALTHOUGH HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE A WHILE AGO (Lucian, *Cataplous*). ✧ *Concessive meaning*.
- κατακειμεθα **ὥσπερ ἐξὸν ἡσυχίαν ἄγειν** WE LIE DOWN, AS IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO BE IDLE (Xenophon, *Anabasis*). ✧ *Comparative meaning*.