

We can even make use of a noun derived from the verbal meaning of the participle:

AFTER THE GENERAL'S DEATH, ...

Let's see a couple of examples from Caesar, in which the final translation makes use of the device of making the subject of the main sentence also the subject of the ablative absolute:

- *Cognito Caesaris adventu, Ariovistus legatos ad eum mittit* AFTER HEARING OF CAESAR'S ARRIVAL, ARIOVISTUS SENDS AMBASSADORS TO HIM (Caesar, *De Bello Gallico*).
 ✧ Literally, CAESAR'S ARRIVAL HAVING BEEN KNOWN, ARIOVISTUS SENDS AMBASSADORS TO HIM.
- *Hoc responso dato discessit* HAVING GIVEN THIS ANSWER, HE DEPARTED (Caesar, *De Bello Gallico*).
 ✧ Literally, THIS ANSWER HAVING BEEN GIVEN, HE DEPARTED.

2/ Let's suppose now the same sentence as before, but with the main verb in future tense:

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Duce necato, milites fugent.

Now the main sentence means THE SOLDIERS WILL FLEE. The participle goes on being past, which means that its action (that the general has died) must have taken place before the action of the main verb (the soldiers fleeing). Not all of the former possible translations would be valid now; some possible translations would be (observe that some of the translations are a whole subordinate clause):

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| THE GENERAL HAVING BEEN KILLED, | THE SOLDIERS WILL FLEE. |
| AFTER THE GENERAL HAS BEEN KILLED, | THE SOLDIERS WILL FLEE. |
| AS THE GENERAL HAS BEEN KILLED, | THE SOLDIERS WILL FLEE. |
| WHEN THE GENERAL HAS BEEN KILLED, | THE SOLDIERS WILL FLEE. |
| AFTER THE GENERAL'S DEATH, | THE SOLDIERS WILL FLEE. |

✧ Observe that some of them suppose that the general has already died, other suppose that he will probably die at some point in the future; context should help to choose.

3/ Let's see now an example with a present participle:

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Puero legente, in horto ludebamus.

The main sentence means WE WERE PLAYING IN THE GARDEN. With respect to *Puero legente*, this construction tells us of the existence of a boy and of his action of reading; the participle is present, so the action of reading must take place at the same time as the action of the main clause.

A possible translation would be: WHILE THE BOY WAS READING, WE WERE PLAYING IN THE GARDEN (observe the verb *was*: it makes clear that both actions, *the boy reading* and *us playing in the garden*, take place at the same time).

As any participle, participles that form an ablative absolute can also have their own objects (they continue being verbs):

- *Puero librum tibi scribente, in horto ludebamus* WHILE THE BOY WAS WRITING A BOOK FOR YOU, WE WERE PLAYING IN THE GARDEN.

4/ Now let's see the same example but with the main verb in present tense:

Puero legente, in horto ludimus.