Chapter 38

The Present Participle Active

38.1 Before proceeding with this chapter, review chapter 20 for the introduction to the Present Active participle, and chapter 24 for the Present Middle and Passive participles.

The Present Stem of the Greek Verb has the sense of continuous or repeated action. For the Present participle, this implies that the action of the participle is going on at the same time as the action of the main verb in the sentence.

38.2 As we saw in chapter 20, the Present Active participle is formed by adding -ων to the Present Stem of the verb. This gives the Masculine Nominative Singular form. The Masculine and Neuter forms follow a Third Declension pattern, while the Feminine follows a First Declension pattern:

Masculine | Feminine | Neuter
-----------|----------|--------
Singular   | STEM-ων  | STEM-ουσα | STEM-ον
Acc.       | STEM-οντα | STEM-ουσαν | STEM-ον
Gen.       | STEM-οντος | STEM-ουσης | STEM-οντος
Dat.       | STEM-οντι  | STEM-ουση | STEM-οντι
Plural     | STEM-οντες | STEM-ουσαι | STEM-οντα
Acc.       | STEM-οντας | STEM-ουσαι | STEM-οντα
Gen.       | STEM-οντων | STEM-ουσαιν | STEM-οντων
Dat.       | STEM-ουσιν | STEM-ουσαιν | STEM-ουσιν

The Present Participle of εἰμι is ων, οὐσα, ὄν - "being". Learn the declension of ων, οὐσα, ὄν, and all other Present Participles Active can be built by adding its forms to the Present stem of the verb.

Contract verbs, in -αω, -εω, -οω, will follow the usual rules of contraction.

Masculine | Feminine | Neuter
-----------|----------|--------
Singular   | ων       | οὐσα   | όν
Acc.       | όντα     | οὐσαν  | όν
Gen.       | όντος    | οὐσης  | όντος
Dat.       | όντι     | οὔσῃ  | όντι
Plural     | όντες    | οὖσαι  | ὄντα
Acc.       | όντας    | οὐσας  | ὄντα
Gen.       | όντων    | οὐσαν  | ὄντων
Dat.       | οὔσιν    | οὐσαις | οὖσι

Printice - until you can read and translate easily. Participles are shown in bold type.

1. Φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἑρήμῳ. A voice of (a man) bawling in the desert. (Mark 1:3)
2. Ἰωάννης βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἑρήμῳ. John was in the desert, baptizing (see Mark 1:4)
3. καὶ κηρύσσων βάπτισµα µετανοίας and preaching a baptism of repentance (Mark 1:4)
4. καὶ κηρύσσων βάπτισµα µετανοίας for forgiveness of sins. (Mark 1:4)
5. καὶ κηρύσσων βάπτισµα µετανοίας And John was eating (used to eat) locusts (Mark 1:5)
6. καὶ κηρύσσων βάπτισµα µετανοίας and wild honey. (see Mark 1:5)
7. καὶ κηρύσσων βάπτισµα µετανοίας And immediately, coming up (as he came up) out of the water he saw the heavens being split, (Mark 1:10)
7. καὶ παράγων παρὰ τὴν θάλασσαν . . . And as he was passing by beside the sea . . .
   εἶδεν Σίμων καὶ Ανδρέαν
   τὸν ἄδελφον Σίμωνος ἁμοιβάλλοντας
   ἐν τῇ θαλάσσῃ.
   he saw Simon and Andrew
   the brother of Simon casting (nets)
   in the sea. (Mark 1:16)

8. Ἐγὼ ἦμαι διδάσκων αὐτοὺς
    ὡς ἔχων
    καὶ οὐχ ὡς οἱ γραµµατεῖς.
    For he was teaching them
    like (one) having authority
    and not like the scribes. (Mark 1:22)

9. καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ,
    ἀµὴν ἀµὴν λέγω ὑµῖν,
    ὅψεσθε . . . τοὺς αγγέλους τοῦ θεοῦ
    you will see . . . the angels of God
    ascending and descending
    on the Son of man. (John 1:51)

38.3 The Participle used as a Noun - see Section 20.4 to review this usage.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ἔφερον πρὸς αὐτὸν . .
   τοὺς κακῶς ἔχοντας.
   They were bringing to him
   the ones "having badly"
   (those being ill, having sickness) (Mark 1:32)

2. ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν οὐ κρίνεται.
   The one trusting in him is not judged.
   (John 3:18)

3. πνεῦµα ὁ θεός, καὶ
   τοὺς προσκυνοῦντας αὐτὸν
   ἐν πνεύµατι καὶ ἀληθείᾳ
   to worship in spirit and in truth.
   (John 4:24)

4. ἄλλος ἔστιν ὁ σπείρων
   καὶ ἄλλος ὁ θερίζων.
   (One) is the sower,
   and another the harvester (John 4:37)

5. τῇ ἐπαύριον βλέπει τὸν Ἰησοῦν
   ἔρχοµενον πρὸς αὐτόν, καὶ λέγει,
   "Ἰδοὺ ὁ ἀµνὸς τοῦ θεοῦ ὁ ἀἱρὼν
   τὴν ἁµαρτίαν τοῦ κόσµου.
   On the next day he saw (sees) Jesus
   coming towards him, and said (says),
   "Behold, the lamb of God, the one taking away
   the sins of the world. (John 1:29)

6. Ἡγὼ εἰμί τὸ Ἀλφα καὶ τὸ Υ, λέγει κύριος ὁ θεός, ὁ ὄν καὶ ὁ ἦν καὶ ὁ ἐρχόµενος, ὁ παντοκράτωρ.
   "I am the Alpha and the Omega,”
   says the Lord God, the one ‘being’ (who is),
   and the one (who) was, and the one coming
   (who is to come), the all-mighty. (Rev. 1:8)

7. Τάδε λέγει ὁ κρατῶν
   τοὺς ἐπὶ ἀστέρας ἐν τῇ δεξιᾷ αὐτοῦ, ὁ περιπατῶν ἐν μέσῳ τῶν ἐπὶ λυχνιῶν τῶν χρυσῶν . .
   These things says the one holding
   the seven stars in his right hand,
   the one walking among (in the middle)
   of the seven golden lamp-stands . . . (Rev. 2:1)

8. πεσοῦνται οἱ . . . πρεσβύτεροι ἐνώπιον τοῦ καθηµένου ἐπὶ τοῦ θρόνου καὶ προσκυνήσουσιν τῷ ζῶντι εἰς τοὺς αἰώνας τῶν αἰώνων.
   The elders will fall down before
   the one seated on the throne
   and they will worship the one living (who lives)
   for ever and ever. (Rev. 4:10)

9. Κἀγὼ Ἰησοῦς τὸν ἁµαρτίαν ἁμοιβάλλων
    καὶ βλέπων ταῦτα.
    The one asking (he who asks) will receive,
    and the one seeking (he who seeks) will find
    and to the one knocking, it will be opened. (Matt. 7:8)
38.4 Sentences for reading and translation

1. οἱ δὲ ἐσθίοντες ἦσαν ἄνδρες ὡσεὶ πεντακισχίλιοι γυναικῶν καὶ παιδίων.
   (Matt. 14:21)

2. Τάδε λέγει ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ θεοῦ, ὃ ἔχον τοὺς ὑπηρετούς αὐτοῦ ὡς φλόγα πυρὸς.
   (Rev. 2:18)

3. καὶ ὁ νικῶν καὶ ὁ τηρῶν ἀρχαί τοὺς ἑργάζοντας καὶ τοὺς πρόερχοντας.
   (Rev. 2:26)

4. ἢς δὲ ὁ λόγος ὑμῖν ἐργάζεται ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ σαρκός σαρκίς πονηροῖς ἔχοντας
   (Matt. 5:27)

5. καὶ ὁ νικῶν καὶ ὁ τηρῶν ἀρχαί τοὺς ἑργάζοντας καὶ τοὺς πρόερχοντας.
   (Rev. 2:26)

6. οὐ γὰρ ὑµεῖς ἐστε οἱ λαλοῦντες ἀλλὰ τὸ πνεῦµα τοῦ πατρὸς ὑµῶν τὸ λαλοῦν ἐν ὑµῖν.
   (Matt. 10:20)

7. καὶ ἦν ἡµέρας τρεῖς µὴ βλέπων, καὶ οὐκ ἔφαγεν οὐδὲ ἔπιεν.
   (Acts 9:9)

8. ἐπορεύετο γὰρ τὴν ὁδὸν αὐτοῦ χαίρων.
   (Acts 8:39)

9. ἐπορεύετο γὰρ τὴν ὁδὸν αὐτοῦ χαίρων.
   (Acts 8:39)

10. ὁ Φίλιππος ἐπορεύετο ἐπὶ τὴν ὁδὸν τὴν καταβαίνουσαν ἀπὸ Ιερουσαλήμ.
    (see Acts 8:26)

38.5 Writing Practice: Write the Greek, while saying aloud (Matt. 5:6 - 8)

µακάριοι οἱ πεινῶντες καὶ διψῶντες τὴν δικαιοσύνην, ὅτι αὐτοὶ χορτασθήσονται.
Happy are the ones hungering and thirsting (for) righteousness for they shall be fed.

µακάριοι οἱ ἔλεηµονες, ὅτι αὐτοὶ ἐλεηθήσονται.
Happy are the ones showing mercy for they shall be shown mercy.

µακάριοι οἱ καθαροὶ τῇ καρδίᾳ, ὅτι αὐτοὶ τὸν θεὸν ὄψονται.
Happy are the clean in heart for they shall see God.


In your Greek New Testament, read the passages aloud several times until you can read them without long pauses or stumbling. Then use the translation helps to translate them.

εἰσέλθατε enter! (Aorist Imperative of εἰσέρχοµαι - I enter)
πλατεῖα wide (Feminine Nominative singular of πλατῦς, -τεια, -τε - broad)
eὐρύχωρος spacious (from εὐρύς - wide + χώρα - place)
pολλοί many (Masculine Nominative plural of πολύς, πολλή, πολύ - many)
tί how!
tεθλιµµένη constricted (Perfect Passive Participle of θλίβω - I press)
πάσας all (Feminine Accusative plural of πᾶς, πᾶσα, πᾶν - each, every, all)
pάσαν every (Feminine Accusative singular of πᾶς, πᾶσα, πᾶν - each, every, all)
ιδὼν "having seen" = when he saw (Aorist Participle of ὁράω, ὄψοµαι, εἶδον I see)
ἔσπλαγχνίσθη he was moved to compassion (Aorist Passive of σπλαγχνίζοµαι)
"was hit in the guts" (from τὸ σπλαγχνὸν - guts, inmost feelings)
ἐσκυλµένοι harassed (Perfect Passive Participle of σκύλλω - I flay)
ἐρριµµένοι thrown down (helpless) (Perfect Passive Participle of ῥίπτω - I throw)
pολύς great, much, a lot (Masc. Nominative singular of πολύς, πολλή, πολύ - many)
δεήθητε beseech, beg, implore! (an Imperative of δέοµαι - I beseech, beg)
ἐκβάλῃ he might put (Aorist Subjunctive of ἐκβάλλω - I cast out)
38.7 Vocabulary to learn

ἀµφιβάλλω  I cast a fishing net  (from ἀµφί - both + βάλλω - I throw)
(a circular net was thrown into the sea and then hailed in from both ends)
δέοµαι  I beseech, implore, beg
θερίζω  I reap, harvest
θλίβω  I press
ἰδε  behold! look!  (an Imperative of ὄραω, ὄψοµαι, εἶδον - I see)
κρούω  I knock  (at a door)
περιάγω  I go around  (from περί - around + ἄγω - I lead, go)
σπλαγχνίζοµαι  I feel compassion  (from τὸ σπλάγχνον - guts, inmost feelings)
ἡ ἀκρίς, -ίδος  locust
ὁ ἀµνός, -οῦ  lamb
ἡ ἀπώλεια, -ας  destruction  (from ἀπόλλυµι - I destroy)
ὁ θερισµός, -οῦ  harvest
ὁ ἱατρός, -οῦ  doctor, healer  (from ἱαόµαι - I heal)
ἡ λυχνία, -ας  lamp-stand
ἡ µαλακία, -ας  sickness, weakness
τὸ µέλι, -ιτος  honey
τὸ σπλάγχνον, -οῦ  guts, inmost feelings
ἡ χρεία, -ας  need
ὁ χρυσός, -οῦ  gold, gold coin
ἄγριος, -α, -ον  wild  (from ὁ ἄγρος - field)
pεντακισχίλιοι, -αι, -α  five thousand
πέντε  five  (indeclinable)
στενός, -ή, -όν  narrow
χίλιοι, -αι, -α  a thousand
χρυσοῦς, -η, -οῦν  golden, made of gold
κακῶς  badly  (Adverb, from κακός - bad)
κακῶς ἔχω  I am ill, I have a sickness
ὡσεὶ  about, approximately
τάδε = τά δε  these things  (Accusative/Nominative Neuter plural Definite Article + δέ)