

4E Translation

Note. There are at least two good reasons not to translate Latin participles with English present participles—that is, two reasons not to translate "literally." It's usually better to translate them as a clause.

1. If you use an English participle, you may end up confusing things. Participles in English tend to dangle, because we don't have endings to tell us who's doing what. "I saw two dogs playing in the woods." So what were the dogs doing? "While I was playing in the woods, I saw two dogs" avoids the confusion.
2. If you use an English participle, you may miss much of the force of the sentence. Latin participles are most often used **predicatively**. That is, participles don't simply describe nouns as attribute adjectives do. They are part of what you are *predicating*, part of what you wish to communicate. See GVE 77.

For example:

Verres . . . Cleomenem egredientem nauisque sequentis inspiciebat.

"Literally": *Verres looked over Cleomenes departing and ships following.* So who is departing? Who or what is following?

Better: *Verres looked over Cleomenes and the ships as Cleomenes departed and the ships followed him.*

1. In the "literal" version, it's not clear who's departing and what's following.
2. If "departing" and "following" merely describe Cleomenes and the ships, just as if we'd said "he looked over captain Cleomenes and the half-full ships", you've missed the point. Why? Because part of Cicero's point is that Verres only bothered to inspect/look at Cleomenes and his fleet *as they were on their way out of port*. That is, even had he cared and noticed that the ships were undermanned, it was too late! And Verres only saw them now because he happened to be partying on the beach. A fancier way of saying this is to note that the participles are *predicatively*: they don't simply describe some pre-existing characteristics of Cleomenes and the ships, but are additional pieces of information transmitted by (predicated by) this very sentence.

4E (i)

Cleomenes leaves¹ the port. Six half-crewed ships follow him as he departs.² Verres, however, who had not been seen for many days, looked over³ Cleomenes as he departed and the ships followed him.⁴ And this man,⁵ a praetor of the Roman People, stood there wearing sandals, with a purple robe, supporting himself on some bimbo on the shore. When the fleet had finally been docked at Pachynum on the fifth day, the sailors, lacking food, began to collect the roots of wild palms. Cleomenes, who thought that he would soon be a second Verres, remained for whole days on the shore drinking and making love [207].

But behold: suddenly, with Cleomenes drunk and the sailors without food, it is announced⁶ that pirate ships were in the port of Odyssea. But our fleet, while Cleomenes was drinking and drunk, was in the port of Pachynus. And when he saw the pirates approaching, the leader, Cleomenes ordered that the mast on his ship be set up and the anchor ropes cut and commanded the other ships to follow him. Although Cleomenes' ship, which was incredibly fast, had reached Helorus in a brief time by fleeing, the others, as best they could, were sailing a bit more slowly toward Helorus, not fleeing an attack of pirates but following their leader. At that time our last ships were first in danger as they fled;⁷ for the pirates attacked our last ships first. When the first ship, whose commander was Phylarchus, had been captured by the pirates, soon the ship from Apollonia was captured, whose commander Anthropinus was killed.

4e(ii)

Meanwhile Cleomenes, when he had reached Helorus, threw himself to the ground from his ship, and left the ship floating on the sea. The remaining captains of the ships,

¹ Or "left". Historical present. See **GVE** 112, note, page 244.

² Word for word: "the ships followed the departing Cleomenes"

³ There's a pun here I can't quite capture. *inspicio* can just mean "watch", which is all Verres is doing. But it can also mean "inspect", which is what Verres should have done.

⁴ "watched the departing Cleomenes and the following ships".

⁵ Connecting relative with the antecedent incorporated into the relative clause. Word for word: "Which man, a praetor . . ."

⁶ Or "was announced". Another historical present.

⁷ "our last ships, fleeing, were first in danger"

when they had seen their general departing for land, followed him; for they themselves—whose ships were slower than that of Cleomenes—had found no way to escape the pirates. The leader of the pirates, whose name was Heracleo, who had not thought that a Roman fleet could be so easily defeated,⁸ ordered it to be set afire and burnt. Cleomenes, since he had not dared to appear in public, although it was night, had shut himself up at home. With Cleomenes at home, the fleet he commanded was burned by pirates [229].

The following lines aren't assigned—but they are lots of fun. Here's a translation.

Oh, what a miserable time for the province of Sicily! Oh, what a disaster! Oh, the wickedness of that scoundrel! On one and the same night, gentlemen, it was possible to see Verres burning with love and the Roman fleet burning with fire set by pirates! A messenger bearing this grave news reached the governor's residence at Syracuse, where women had just led that man from a party, together with singing and music; but, (so strict was the discipline at the home of Verres) in such a grave crisis no one was admitted to Verres, no one would dare to awake the sleeping Verres. The disaster, however, was known by all in a short time; for, since they had seen the burning ships, the Syracusans understood that a great disaster had been met with and that they would soon be in great danger. Therefore a huge crowd from the whole of the city gathered at a run.

4E (iii)

The pirates, after⁹ they had waited at Helorus for that one night, had already left the ships burning¹⁰ and began to approach Syracuse. And these¹¹ pirates had presumably often heard that there was nothing more beautiful than the walls of Syracuse and her ports and had decided that they would never see them, except with Verres as praetor. So at once, without any fear, they began to penetrate into the very harbor.

By the immortal gods! A pirate ship, while you, Verres, were praetor, reached all the way to the forum of Syracuse! A place Carthaginian ships never reached, (while they had great power at sea), where never a Roman fleet, during so many Carthaginian and Sicilian wars was able to approach, here, with you as praetor, pirate ships roved about

⁸ *victum iri* is the so-called future passive infinitive. See **GVE 118**.

⁹ *cum* + pluperfect subjunctive often means "after".

¹⁰ "ships burning" is more likely right than "burning ships" as only the first is predicative.

¹¹ connecting relative

at their leisure. Oh, what a miserable, bitter spectacle! Oh, a deed more shameful than all I've mentioned. This pirate ship made a mockery of the glory of the city, of the name of the Roman people, and of all the Romans who live in Syracuse.¹²

¹² A predicative dative (see GVE 88.6, page 183).