

# Participles in a Nutshell – I: The Perfect Passive

## What is a participle?

A participle is a MOOD of the verb that shares attributes of both ADJECTIVES and VERBS. As such we call it a VERBAL ADJECTIVE.

- English examples: *I was running to class; Aeneas, holding his father, fled the city; I visited the destroyed city.*

## What are the implications of a participle being a VERBAL ADJECTIVE?

- As an ADJECTIVE: it must agree with whatever noun it is modifying in CASE, NUMBER, & GENDER.
  - As a VERBAL ADJECTIVE: it will have some characteristics of VERBS: therefore it will exhibit: NUMBER, TENSE, [MOOD], & VOICE.

## How does the PERFECT PASSIVE use the participle?

- When a Latin speaker/writer wishes to express an idea that is:
  - passive (the subject is being ACTED UPON rather than ACTING) and
  - in a moment of the past,he will use the PERFECT PASSIVE.
- The PERFECT PASSIVE consists the passive participle (the 4<sup>th</sup> principal part of verbs) and a form of the verb “to be” that agrees with the subject in person and number.
- English examples: *Troy was destroyed by the Greeks (Perfect); Troy had been destroyed by the Greeks (Pluperfect); Troy will have been destroyed by the Greeks (Future Perfect)*

## Exempla

1. Troia a Graecis deleta est (was destroyed)
2. Pueri a magistro vocati sunt (was called)
3. Ego a magistro vocatus sum (was called)

## Homework for 1/30/02 – Handout on Perfect Passives I

### Before you begin:

Review Magnus – a –um paradigm; present, future, and imperfect forms of “to be”

### Remember

- The participle must agree with the noun it modifies in CASE, NUMBER, & GENDER;
- The form of “to be” must agree with the subject in PERSON and NUMBER.
- The TENSE is determined by the form of “to be” that is used:
  - Perfect Passive uses the Present form of “to be” (*vocatus sum*)
  - Pluperfect Passive uses the Imperfect form of “to be” (*vocatus eram*)
  - Future Perfect Passive uses the Future form of “to be” (*vocatus ero*)

1. Puellae a magistro vocat\_\_\_\_\_ (was called – perfect)
2. Puella a magistro vocat\_\_\_\_\_ (had been called – pluperfect)
3. Puer a magistro vocat\_\_\_\_\_ (will have been called – future perfect)
4. Pueri a magistro vocat\_\_\_\_\_ (was called – perfect)
5. Ego a magistro vocat\_\_\_\_\_ (was called – perfect)
6. Nos a magistro vocat\_\_\_\_\_ (was called – perfect)
7. Urbs a Romanis capt\_\_\_\_\_ (was captured – perfect)
8. Urbes a Romanis capt\_\_\_\_\_ (was captured – perfect)