

Lesson 32. Esperanto U3A Box Hill – Term 4, 2018

Saluton! Bonan Matenon!

Kiel vi povas vidi, hodiaŭ estas Leciono tridek du. En ĉi tiu klaso ni ankaŭ, kiel en Leciono tridek du, parolos en Esperanto.

Karlo estas ĉi tie. Li estas tigro kaj komenca lernanto de Esperanto. Ĉi tiu estas ankoraŭ lia unua klaso. Bonvolu helpu lin.

En Leciono 2 mi eraris. Ni ne povas diri sidiĝu sed devas diri sidantiĝu! Mi klarigos en la angla sekve kaj poste ni devos paroli pli en Esperanto!

Esperanto participles allow us to say whether an action or process is about to start, is in process or has been completed. This can be done from the point of view of the person or thing causing the action or, in the case of transitive verbs, the person or thing acted upon.

The **active participles** are -ont (about to happen), -ant (is happening), and -int (the action is completed).

The **passive participles** are only to be used if the verb is transitive, that is, it takes a direct object. They are -ot (about to be acted upon) -at (being acted upon) and, -it (finished being acted upon).

Notice that the letters “o”, “a” and “i” have a similar function to their use in -os, -as, -is; the future, present and past tense endings of verbs.

Participles are used in words ending in -a, -o and -e.

Turning Verbs into Adjectives

Let's take some verbs as examples and see how participles can turn them into adjectives.

Legi, is to read and meti, is to put. So legonta is an adjective that means something about to read. It uses the active participle -ont and so refers to an action about to take place. La legonta persono metis la libron sur la tablo. La libro estas nun la metita libro.

The person about to read put the book on the table. Why is it the metita libro? Because -it indicates an action completed on a direct object, in this case metita libro means the book that has already been put – *the putting action is complete.*

Dormi is an intransitive verb and therefore *does not take a direct object.* We cannot have a passive participle associated with it. We can talk about the dormonta persono, the dormanta persono and the dorminta persono: the person about to sleep, the person sleeping and the person who has slept. But, dormota persono does not make sense!

Turning Adjectival Participles into Nouns.

Tranĉi means to cut with a blade, usually a knife. Tranĉanta is an adjective with an active participle referring to what is doing the actual cutting. So we could have la tranĉanta tranĉilo, the knife or blade doing the cutting.

But if we replace the -a ending with an -o, we get a noun, la tranĉanto, the wielder of the knife doing the cutting. This is usually thought of as a person, in this case the cutter.

In earlier lessons we have used lernanto and komencanto. Lerni is the verb to learn. Lernanta is the adjective referring to the act of learning. So we can have la lernanta klaso, the learner class and, lernanto, a learner. Komenci is the verb to commence, komencanta klaso is an early learner class and a komencanto, like my friend Karlo, is an early learner.

[In regard to Lesson 2 and the attempt to use sidi, an intransitive verb, to express the meaning “be seated, an adjective”. Sidi means to sit and sidu is its imperative form. To get the desired meaning we need a word that expresses “in the state of being seated.” Sidanta is the adjective that expresses this. If we add the verb meaning “to become” which is “iĝi or “iĝu” in its imperative form, we get iĝu sidanta! Or, more concisely, we can use, sidantiĝu! “Become seated!” This was the meaning intended.

You might like to think of other uses of the suffix iĝ with adjectives: bela, beliĝos, will become beautiful; malpura, malpuriĝis, became dirty.]

We will revisit participles in Lesson 33 and the -e ending. We will also look at compound verb tenses and how in most cases the simple verb is preferred.

But now we must continue to practise speaking in Esperanto!

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