Syntax 4: Participles

- What is a Participle?
- **Active Participles** (-*ing*)
  - Direct Objects (with transitive verbs)
  - Predicates (with linking verbs)
- **Passive Participles** (-*ed*)
  - Passive Agents (with transitive verbs)
Syntax 4: Participles

- Participles are adjectives formed from verbs ("verbal adjectives")
- They are adjectives primarily, and verbs only secondarily
  - Like adjectives, they modify nouns
  - Also like adjectives, they cannot serve as the main verb of a sentence by themselves
Syntax 4: **Participles**

- **Participles** are created by adding certain endings to a verb:
  - *-ing*: Active Participles
    - running, considering, becoming
  - *-ed* (or past form): Passive Participles
    - stated, borrowed, fought
Syntax 4: Particples

• Passive Participles vs. Past-Tense Verbs
  – past-tense verbs are main verbs
    • he stated the price
    • we fought for our freedom
  – participles are not main verbs
    • the stated price seemed unfair to us
    • a freedom fought for is always a possession more prized
Syntax 4: Participles

- Participles are like verbs in that they can take direct objects, passive agents, or predicates.

- Active Participles can take direct objects:
  - The actor ran backstage carrying his mask.
  - After fleeing Thebes, Oedipus became a homeless wanderer.
Syntax 4: Particles

- Passive Participles can take passive agents:
  - Crippled by a stake through his ankle, Oedipus as a baby was given the name “lame-foot”
  - Enraged by her husband’s deception, Clytemnestra plotted his murder
  - The vengeance of a goddess scorned by mortals can be brutal
Syntax 4: Participles

- Participles based on Linking Verbs can take predicates:
  - **Becoming** impatient with Teiresias, Oedipus threatens to hit him
  - While still **being angry** at Agamemnon, Achilles agreed to fight again after Patroclus’ death
  - With the light **growing brighter** as dawn arrived, we saw the true extent of the damage
Syntax 4: Participles

- Identify the participle(s) in the following sentences and any direct object, passive agent, or predicate which depends on it.

  ... as they bound to Munychia’s pier the cables’ ends with their twisted strands stepped ashore on the continent.

  Euripides, Hippolytus 760-2
Syntax 4: Participle(s)

- Identify the participle(s) in the following sentences and any direct object, passive agent, or predicate which depends on it.

  . . . the bull came galloping beside the rail, silently following until he brought disaster, capsizing the car, striking the wheel on a rock.

Euripides, Hippolytus 1231-3
Syntax 4: Participles

• Identify the participle(s) in the following sentences and any direct object, passive agent, or predicate which depends on it.

  You should be wiser than mortals, being Gods.

  Euripides, Hippolytus 120
Syntax 4: Particibles

• Identify the participle(s) in the following sentences and any direct object, passive agent, or predicate which depends on it.

There is joy in the heart of a God also when honored by men . . .
Hippolytus . . . has blasphemed me counting me vilest of the Gods in Heaven.

Euripides, Hippolytus 8-12
**Syntax 4: Participles**

- Identify the *participle(s)* in the following sentences and any *direct object*, *passive agent*, or *predicate* which depends on it.

  ... forcing a second *sacrifice* unholy, *untasted*, *working* *bitterness* in the blood and faith *lost*.

  Aeschylus, *Agamemnon* 151-2