1. **DEFINITION**: A participial phrase containing a noun/pronoun and a participle in the ablative case and describing an action related to the action of the main clause. Unlike other participial phrases, whose participles modify some noun/pronoun in the attached clause, the ablative absolute is self-contained (hence “absolute”), i.e., both the participle and the noun it modifies are in the same phrase.

**ENGLISH EXAMPLE**: “Rome having been seen, the men were rejoicing.”

**NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH**: “Seeing Rome, the men rejoiced.” (Here the participle “seeing” modifies “men” in the main clause; thus “seeing Rome” is just a regular participial phrase: Rōmam videntēs, virī gaudēbant.)

2. **RECOGNITION**: Look for a noun/pronoun and a participle (or occasionally two nouns with the verb “to be” understood, e.g., Caesare duce, with Caesar being our leader = with Caesar as our leader) in the ablative case, usually set off by commas.

**EXAMPLE**: Rōmā visā, virī gaudēbant.

3. **TRANSLATION**: Supply the word “with” (common with the ablative), then translate the noun and the participle literally:

**EXAMPLE**: Rōmā visā, virī gaudēbant.

With Rome having been seen, the men were rejoicing.

**OR**, “with” may be omitted: Rome having been seen, the men were rejoicing.

Or (and this generally produces more idiomatic English) transform the PHRASE into a CLAUSE, supplying the appropriate conjunction (usually “when,” “since,” or “although,” whichever best suits the context) and transforming the participle into the appropriate verb tense:

Since Rome had been seen, the men were rejoicing.

**PRACTICE WITH THESE**:

Tyrannō expulsō, cīvēs gaudent.

**PHRASE:** ____________________________________________________________

**CLAUSE:** ____________________________________________________________

Omnibus virīs auditentibus, poēta carmina recitāvit.

**PHRASE:** ____________________________________________________________

**CLAUSE:** ____________________________________________________________

Catilīna ab Cicerōne superātō, Rōmānī tamen aliōs coniūrātōs timēbant.

**PHRASE:** ____________________________________________________________

**CLAUSE:** ____________________________________________________________