

1. Verbal adverbs in speech

Most deverbals can be heard in speech, but verbal adverbs almost NEVER are — except for a few that have become “ordinary” adverbs.

сидя

sitting

лѐжа

lying

молча

silently

2. Translating verbal adverbs

Take care to translate **imperfective** verbal adverbs as “**while -ing**,” and **perfective** ones as “**having -ed**.” What verbs do they modify?

Путешествуя в Женеву,

На дороге у креста

Видел он Марию Деву,

Матерь Господа Христа.

С той поры, **сгорев** душою,¹

Он на женщин не смотрел,

И до гроба ни с одною

Молвить слова не хотел.

...

Проводил он целы ночи

Перед ликом Пресвятой,

Устремив к Ней скорбны очи,

Тихо слѐзы **ля** рекой.

...

Между тем как паладины

Встречу трепетным врагам

По равнинам Палестины

Мчались, **именуя** дам,

...

Возвратясь² в свой замо́к дальний,

Жил он строго заключён,

Всё влюблённый, всё печальный,

Без причастья умер он;

¹ This strikingly descriptive phrase — **сгорев душою** — is a challenge to translate. Note that the verb **сгорать** / **сгореть** is intransitive, meaning “to burn” in the sense of “to be consumed by fire” (*not* to light something else on fire). The instrumental **душою** conveys the part of him that was consumed by fire; so, we might translate somewhat loosely: “from that day forth, his soul having been (completely!) consumed by fire, he did not look...”

² This example is well worth paying attention to, especially for anyone who wants to read Russian literature! It is a **perfective** verbal adverb that is formed according to the rules we learned for forming **imperfective** ones. Such forms are quite common in classical literature, especially for (reflexive) **И** verbs. So, how do we know this is actually perfective? Well, like always — by knowing the aspectual pair. This is complicated a bit here because the perfective Pushkin is using isn’t the standard anymore. His pair would be: **возвращаться** **АЙ** / **вернуться** **И**, while the one we’ve learned (and should use!) is: **возвращаться** **АЙ** / **вернуться** **НУ**.