

THE USES OF GREEK CASES

1. Nominative

- A. Subject of a finite verb (e.g. ὁ Σωκράτης αἰνιγματῶδῶς λέγει, Socrates is speaking in riddles)
- B. Predicate substantives or adjectives in agreement with the subject will also be nominative (e.g. Σόλων ἦν σόφος, Solon was wise)
- C. Nominative with article in place of vocative (e.g. ὁ παῖς, ἀκολούθει (Ar.Ran. 521), boy, attend me)
- D. Direct or indirect address and exclamations (e.g. ὦ πόλις καὶ δῆμε (Ar.Eq. 273), O city and people!)

2. Vocative

- A. Direct address and exclamations (e.g. ὦ Ζεῦ καὶ θεοί (P.Pr. 310d), O Zeus and you gods!)

3. Genitive (The basic meaning of the genitive case is 'of'; it most commonly limits the meaning of substantives, adjectives, and adverbs)

- A. Possessive genitive (e.g. Θουκυδίδην τὸν Ὀλόρου (Thuc. 4.104.4), Thucydides, the son of Olorus)
 - i. The genitive may be found after εἰς and ἐν where the place is omitted (e.g. εἰν (εἰς) Αἴδαο (Homer), in, to (the kingdom of) Hades)
- B. Partitive genitive (e.g. τοὺς...ἀπόροθς τῶν πολιτῶν (Demosthenes 18.104), the needy among (out of) the citizens)
- C. Genitive of price, value, and penalty (e.g. ἀργυρίου...πρίασθαι ἢ ἀποδόσθαι ἵππον (Plato Repub. 333b), to buy or sell a horse for money)
- D. Genitive of crimes (e.g. δῶρων ἐκρίθησαν (Lysias 27.3), they were tried for bribery)
 - i. Note: compounds of κατα- take the genitive of the person charged and the accusative of the crime: καταγιγνώσκω (I condemn), καταδικάζω (I judge against), καταψηφίζομαι (I vote against), κατακρίνω (I give sentence against), κατηγορέω (I accuse)
- E. Genitive of separation or lack (e.g. ἐνδεᾶ...κάλλους ἢ ἀρετῆς (Plato Repub. 381c), lacking in beauty or virtue)
- F. Genitive of comparison
 - i. When ἢ is used: people or things compared are in the same case (e.g. φιλῶ γὰρ οὐ σέ μᾶλλον ἢ δόμους ἐμούς (Euripides, Medea 327), for I do not love you more than my own house)
 - ii. When ἢ is not used: the object of comparison (i.e. the word after 'than' in English) is in the genitive (e.g. ἡττων...ἀμαθῆς σοφοῦ, δειλὸς ἀνδρείου (Plato Phaedrus 239a), an ignorant man is inferior to a wise man, a coward to a brave man)
- G. Genitive of exclamation (e.g. ὦ Ζεῦ βασιλεῦ, τῆς λεπτότητος τῶν φρενῶν (Aristophanes Clouds 153), O King Zeus, what (an example of) subtlety of intellect!)
- H. Genitive of quality (e.g. ἐόντα (= Attic ὄντα)...τρόπου ἡσυχίου (Herodotus 1.107), being of a peaceful disposition)
- I. Genitive of degree: εἰς τοῦτο, εἰς τοσοῦτο (e.g. ὁρᾶτε...οἱ προελήλυθ' ἀσελγείας (Demosthenes 4.9), you see to what a pitch of brutality he has come)
- J. Genitive of place and time
 - i. Time within which (e.g. ᾤχετο τῆς νυκτός (X.A.7.2.17), he departed during the night)
 - ii. Place within which or at which (e.g. ἰέναι τοῦ πρόσω (X.A.1.3.1), to go forward)
- K. Genitive with prepositions
 - i. ἀπό, ἐκ, and πρό are only used with the genitive
- L. Genitive absolute (e.g. τούτων λεχθέντων ἀνέστησαν (X.A.3.3.1), after these things had been said ["these things having been said"], they got up)
- M. Certain groups of verbs take genitive objects:
 - i. Verbs of sharing, taking hold of, touching, aiming, missing, and beginning
 - ii. Verbs of tasting, smelling, perceiving, remembering, desiring, sparing, caring for, neglecting, and despising
 - a. The verbs of caring φιλέω and ποθέω take the accusative
 - iii. Verbs of ruling and commanding

4. Dative (The basic meanings of the dative case are 'to' and 'for;' it also encompasses instrumental and locative expressions)

- A. Dative of indirect object (e.g. *ρόδον ἔδωκα τῇ ἐμῇ ἀδελφῇ*, I gave a rose (direct obj.) to my sister (indir. obj.))
- B. Dative of possession (e.g. *ὄνομα δ' αὐτῇ Κορσωτή (ἦν)* (X.A.1.5.4), its name was Corsote)
- C. Dative of advantage/disadvantage (e.g. *πᾶς ἀνὴρ αὐτῷ πονεῖ* (Sophocles, *Ajax* 1366), every man toils for himself)
- D. Dative of feeling/Ethical dative (e.g. *ὦ μῆτερ, ὡς καλός μοι ὁ πάππος* (X.C.1.3.2), Oh, mother, how handsome grandpa is (I've just realized)!)
- E. Dative of likeness/unlikeness (*σκιαῖς ἑοικότες*, like shadows)
- F. Dative of instrument/means (e.g. *ἔβαλλέ με λίθοις* (Lysias 3.8), he hit me with stones)
 - i. Dative of agent: with the perfect and pluperfect passive, and after the verbal adjective in *-τέος*, a personal agent can be in the dative (e.g. *ἐπειδὴ αὐτοῖς παρεσκεύαστο* (T.1.46), when they had got their preparations ready)
- G. Dative of manner or 'measure of difference' (e.g. *τῇ κεφαλῇ μείζονα* (Plato, *Phaedo* 101a), taller by a head)
- H. Dative of time 'at which' (e.g. *Παναθηναίοις* (D.21.156), at the Panathenaea)
- I. Dative with prepositions
 - i. *ἐν, σύν* are only used with the dative
- J. Dative with verbs
 - i. Many compound verbs (w/*σύν, ἐν, ἐπί*, and sometimes *παρά, περί, πρός, ὑπό*) take a dative object (e.g. *αὐτοῖς ἐπέπεσε τὸ Ἑλληνικόν* (X.A.4.1.10), the Greek force fell upon them)
 - ii. The following groups of verbs take dative objects:
 - a. Verbs of helping, injuring
 - b. Verbs of meeting, yielding
 - c. Verbs of obeying, serving, pardoning, advising
 - d. Verbs of similarity, equality, and their opposites

5. Accusative

- A. Direct object (e.g. *φιλῶ τὴν γραῦν*, I love the old woman)
 - i. The direct object of an active transitive verb becomes the subject of the passive (e.g. *ὁ παῖς ὑπὸ τοῦ ἀνδρὸς τύπτεται*, the boy is struck by the man)
- B. Cognate accusative: the noun in the accusative is from the same origin as the verb (e.g. *τί προσγελάτε τὸν πανύστατον γέλων;* (Euripides, *Medea* 1041), why do you smile the last smile you will ever smile?)
- C. Accusative of respect (e.g. *πλήγεντα τὴν κεφαλὴν πελέκει* (Herodotus 1.38), struck on his head with an axe)
- D. Some verbs are followed by two accusatives:
 - i. To make somebody something, to regard someone as something (e.g. *στρατηγὸν...αὐτὸν ἀπέδειξε* (Xenophon, *Anabasis* 1.1.2), he appointed him general)
 - ii. To ask, teach someone something; to conceal, take something away from someone (e.g. *οὐ τοῦτ' ἐρωτῶ σε* (Aristophanes, *Clouds* 641), I am not asking you this)
 - iii. To treat someone [well or badly], speak of someone [well or badly] (e.g. *πολλὰ ἀγαθὰ ὑμᾶς ἐποίησεν* (Lysias 5.3), he did you much good)
- E. Accusative of extent
 - i. Space (e.g. *ἄγειν (στρατίαν) στενὰς ὁδοὺς* (X.C), to lead an army over narrow roads)
 - ii. Time (e.g. *τὴν μητέρα τελευτήσασαν τρίτον ἔτος τουτί* (L.24.6), my mother who died two years ago)
- F. Accusative absolute: where the participle has no subject the accusative absolute is used in place of the genitive absolute (e.g. *τί δή, ὑμᾶς ἐξὸν ἀπολέσαι, οὐκ ἐπὶ τοῦτο ἤλθομεν* (Xenophon, *Anabasis* 2.5.22), why indeed, when it was possible for us to destroy you, did we not proceed to do it?)
- G. Accusative with prepositions
 - i. *ἀνά, εἰς, ὡς* are used only with the accusative