

Cases (the Big Four) Roughly based on Mounce Ch. 7

Intro to Genitive and Dative cases:

A. Genitive case: Marks *possession*; keyword: **of**.

Ex. “God’s word / the word of God” in Greek consists of a *head noun* followed by a *genitive noun*:

head noun + genitive noun
ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ

Note: the head noun can be in *any case*, but the genitive noun, by definition, would be in the genitive case.

“I know the word (acc.) of God (gen.)” = γινώσκω τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ.

B. Dative case: Marks *indirect object*; keyword: **to, in, with**.

Ex. “I threw Brad a ball” and “I threw a ball to Brad.” Brad = i.o. and thus would be in the dative case in Greek.

Translating the dative:

1. Normally use **to** plus the meaning of the dative noun:

φαίνεται τῷ Ἰωσήφ
He appeared **to Joseph** (dat.)

2. Sometimes, use **with/in** if context fits this meaning better:

οἱ πτωχοὶ τῷ πνεύματι
the poor **in spirit** (dat.) [not “the poor to spirit”]

ὀργιζόμενος τῷ ἀδελφῷ
angry **with** his brother (dat.) [not “angry to/in his brother”]

Forming the Genitive and Dative cases:

A. Genitive Case:

1. 2nd declension (for *both* masc. and neut.)
sing. ending: υ
pl. ending: ων

2. 1st declension (for fem.)

sing. ending: ς

pl. ending: ων

Exx:

<u>noun</u>	<u>gen. sing.</u>	<u>gen. pl.</u>
λόγος	λόγου	λόγων
ἔργον	ἔργου	ἔργων
γραφή	γραφῆς	γραφῶν
ώρα	ώρας	ῶν

B. Dative Case:

1. Both 1st and 2nd declensions

sing. ending: ι

pl. ending: ις

2. Peculiarities of formation:

Dative sing. ending: [1] The final stem vowel lengthens (ο to ω; short α to long α; η remains η because already long). [2] The ending ι then subscript under that long vowel.

Dative pl. ending: the short stem vowel does NOT lengthen.

Exx:

<u>noun</u>	<u>dat. sing.</u>	<u>dat. pl.</u>
λόγος	λόγῳ	λόγοις
ἔργον	ἔργῳ	ἔργοις
γραφή	γραφῆ	γραφαῖς
ώρα	ώρα	ῶραις