

Genitive Case & the Article

1. Intro to Genitive Case:

1.1. English “Possessive Case”: In English, when a noun is the possessor of something, we mark it in writing with apostrophe-s (’s) or, if the word ends with an –s already, then with just an apostrophe. Exx:

God	God’s word	(God is possessor of the word)
Jesus	Jesus’ disciples	(Jesus has disciples)
girls	the girls’ hair	(girls are the possessors of hair)

1.2. Greek Genitive Case: One of the main functions of the genitive case in Greek is to mark *possession*; keyword for translating a genitive noun: **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.

2. Forming the Genitive Case:

2.1. 2nd declension (for *both* masc. and neut.) add to the stem vowel the following:

sing. ending: -υ
pl. ending: -ων (the omega swallows up the stem vowel ο)

2.2. 1st declension (for fem.) add to the stem vowel the following:

sing. ending: -ς
pl. ending: -ων (the omega swallows up the stem vowel α/η)

2.3. Exx:

<u>Noun</u>	<u>Stem</u>	<u>Gen. sing.</u>	<u>Gen. pl.</u>
λόγος	*λόγο	λόγου	λόγων
ἔργον	*ἔργο	ἔργου	ἔργων

Noun	Stem	Gen. sing.	Gen. pl.
γραφή ῥα	*γραφή *ῥα	γραφῆς ῥας	γραφῶν ῥῶν

3. Chart of Gen Forms

3.1. Nom/Gen/Dat/Acc Case Endings: Continuing to memorize this chart.

	First and Second Declensions		
	Masc [2]	Fem [1]	Neut [2]
Nom sing	ς	-	ν
Gen sing	υ	ς	υ
Dat sing	ι	ι	ι
Acc sing	ν	ν	ν
Nom pl	ι	ι	α
Gen pl	ων	ων	ων
Dat pl	ις	ις	ις
Acc pl	υς	ς	α

3.2. Noun Stem Vowels + Nom/Gen/Dat/Acc Case Endings: You don't have to memorize this chart, but it's helpful to see when the end of nouns look like in these cases.

	Masc [2]	Fem [1]	Neut [2]
Nom sing	ος	η, α	ον
Gen sing	ου	ης, ας	ου
Dat sing	ω	η, α	ω
Acc sing	ον	ην, αν	ον
Nom pl	οι	αι	α
Gen pl	ων	ων	ων
Dat pl	οις	αις	οις
Acc pl	ους	ας	α

3.3. Article plus Nouns with Nom/Gen/Dat/Acc Case Endings:

	Masc [2]	Fem [1]	Neut [2]
Nom sing	ὁ λόγος the word	ἡ γραφή, ἡ ὥρα the Scripture, the hour	τὸ ἔργον the work
Gen sing	τοῦ λόγου of the word	τῆς γραφῆς, τῆς ὥρας of the Scripture, of the hour	τοῦ ἔργου of the work
Dat sing	τῷ λόγῳ in the word	τῇ γραφῇ, τῇ ὥρᾳ in the Scripture, in the hour	τῷ ἔργῳ in the work
Acc sing	τὸν λόγον the word	τὴν γραφήν, τὴν ὥραν the Scripture, the hour	τὸ ἔργον the work
Nom pl	οἱ λόγοι the words	αἱ γραφαί, αἱ ὥραι the Scriptures, the hours	τὰ ἔργα the works
Gen pl	τῶν λόγων of the words	τῶν γραφῶν, τῶν ὥρῶν of the Scriptures, of the hours	τῶν ἔργων of the works
Dat pl	τοῖς λόγοις in the words	ταῖς γραφαῖς, ταῖς ὥραις in the Scriptures, in the hours	τοῖς ἔργοις in the works
Acc pl	τοὺς λόγους the words	τὰς γραφάς, τὰς ὥρας the Scriptures, the hours	τὰ ἔργα the works

3.4. Let's practice identifying the parsing!

τῶν φωνῶν

τῶν οὐρανῶν

τοῦ δούλου

τοῦ τέκνου

τῆς γῆς

4. Preps with Genitive Objects

4.1. Some prepositions take their objects only in genitive case (instead of dat/acc case):

ἀπό	from, away from
ἐκ	from, out of

4.2. If a prep takes its obj in genitive case, do not use the “keyword” to translate the genitive noun; use the preposition’s meaning followed by the meaning of the noun.

τοῦ κόσμου	ἐκ / τοῦ κόσμου
of the world	of / the world (not ‘of / of the world’)

4.3. Some prepositions take their objects only in more than one case; they usually have quite different meanings, depending on the case of the object of the prep. Below are some exx; if making flash cards, create separate ones for the prep with each case its object can be in.

διὰ + Gen	through
διὰ + Acc	on account of, because of
κατά + Gen	down from, against
κατά + Acc	according to, during, throughout

5. Noun Rule 6

6. In the genitive and dative, the masc. and neut. (case endings) will always be identical.