

## Appendix 3

### Noun and Adjective Syntax

#### Common functions of noun cases

##### Nominative case

1. **Subject** of a finite verb (indicative, subjunctive, optative). The subject identifies who is doing or experiencing what the finite verb says. *The king commands his armies.*
2. **Predicate nominative**. When the finite verb is roughly equivalent to an equal sign (=)—verbs like *is*, *seems*, *becomes*, *appears*—the noun that completes the equation is set in the same case as the subject because it is the same thing as the subject. *The king became a murderer.*
3. **Appositive**. A noun that merely renames or offers a supplementary identification of an earlier noun is set in the same case as the noun it renames. An appositive of a noun in the nominative case will itself be set in the nominative case. *Oedipus, the son of Laius, killed his father.*

##### Genitive case

The genitive case often attaches a sense rather like our *of* to a noun. This *of* can have various specific senses.

1. **Genitive of Possession**. Sometimes the genitive *of* identifies the “owner” of some other noun. *The king's horse (the horse of the king) was a spectacular animal.*
2. **Genitive of origin**. Sometimes the genitive *of* identifies the place a person or thing comes from or is closely associated with. *The wine of Thasos is particularly delicious.*
3. **Patronymic genitive**. Sometimes the genitive *of* identifies a person's father. *Oedipus of Laius was the most unfortunate of all men.*
4. **Genitive of composition**. Sometimes the genitive *of* identifies the material an object is composed of. *The king sat on a throne of olive wood.*
5. **Partitive genitive** or **Genitive of the whole**. Sometimes the genitive *of* identifies the whole of which some other noun (or nominal adjective) is a part. *Some of the soldiers fled the battlefield*

*in fear.*

6. **Subjective genitive** and **Objective genitive**. Sometimes the genitive *of* identifies either the subject or the object of another noun that indicates an action.

*The hatred of the king (the king's hatred) led him to kill many innocent people.* The king is the one who is doing the hating. **Subjective genitive**.

*The hatred of the king ultimately led to his assassination.* The king is the object of the hatred. **Objective genitive**.

7. **Genitive of time during which**. Sometimes the genitive *of* identifies the time (and often the kind of time during which the action happened). *The king went riding of a morning = The king went riding during morning time.*

Sometimes the *of*-notion is not so apparent to an English speaker.

8. **Genitive of comparison**. A genitive can be used with a comparative adjective to indicate the basis of comparison. The sentence that seems to say, *The new king was wiser of his father* means, *The new king was wiser than his father.*

9. **Genitive absolute**. A genitive noun, pronoun, or nominal adjective, modified by a genitive participle, can be used to indicate background actions or conditions for the main clause. *Laius having died, Oedipus assumed the throne.*

10. **Appositive**. Appositives of genitives are set in the genitive. *Oedipus married the widow of Laius, the former king.*

11. **Object of certain prepositions**. Many prepositions are answered by genitive nouns. Chief among the prepositions that require the genitive are those that involve obvious notions of separation: ἐκ (*out of*), ἀπό (*away from*), κατά (*down from, against*). But many other prepositions also require the genitive, including: διά (*through*), περί (*about, concerning*).

12. **Object of certain verbs**. Some verbs, particularly those that involve sharing, leading or ruling, and aiming at, and those that imply touch or contact (but not taking possession), take objects that an English speaker would probably expect to find either as accusative direct objects or as objects of prepositions. Your lexicon will identify verbs that take genitive objects. So, for example, ὁ Περικλῆς ἄρχει τῶν Ἀθηναίων (*Pericles rules over the Athenians*). τίς λαμβάνεται μου τοῦ ἱματίου; (*Who is taking hold of my clothes*?)

Other common examples include: μετέχω (*take part in*), μεταδίδωμι (*share*); ἅπτομαι (*touch*); ἄρχω (*lead, begin*), κρατέω (*grasp, control*), βασιλεύω (*rule over*); στοχάζομαι (*aim at*), πεινάω (*hunger for*), ἐράω (*passionately desire*); τυγχάνω (*hit <a target>, obtain*), ἐφικνέομαι (*reach, hit <a target>*), ἀμαρτάνω (*miss <a target>*); μινῆσκω (*remind*), μνάομαι (*remember*), ἐπιλανθάνομαι

(forget); ἀκούω (hear), αἰσθάνομαι (perceive); πίμπλημι (fill <with>)

### Accusative case

1. **Direct object**. (See page 85 for clarification.) *The king conquered his enemies.*
2. **Subject of infinitive**. When the “subject” of an infinitive is different than the subject of the main verb, the new subject is specified in the accusative. οἱ στρατηγοὶ βούλονται τὸν βασιλέα ἀποθανεῖν, *The generals want the king to die.*
3. **Appositive**. Appositives of accusatives are set in the accusative. *Oedipus killed Laius, his father.*
4. **Accusative of oath**. The particle νή + an accusative introduces a positive oath. The particle μὰ + an accusative introduces a negative oath. νή Δία φημί (By Zeus I assert it). μὰ Δία οὐ φημί (By Zeus I deny it).
- 5) **Accusative of extent of time**. *The Athenians fought the Spartans thirty years.*
- 6) **Accusative Absolute**. Rarely, you will encounter a structure exactly like a genitive absolute except that its core features (noun and participle) are set in the accusative rather than the genitive.
- 7) **Object of certain prepositions**. Many prepositions, including all prepositions that indicate movement towards, are answered by accusative nouns. So, for example, εἰς (*into*), πρὸς (*towards*), διὰ (*because of*), κατὰ (*according to*).

### Dative case

1. **Indirect object**. *The king gave great wealth to his generals.* The king told his children a story.
2. **Dative of reference, point of view, advantage/disadvantage**. *To his young son (in reference to his son; from the point of view of his son) the great king was merely a gentle father. The war was particularly terrible for the old and the poor. The old king was merciful to the people.*
3. **Dative of means, instrument**. The thing by means of which an action is done is set in the dative. The king struck his enemy with his sword.
4. **Dative of time**. The time at or within which something took place is set in the dative. *In the third year the siege was lifted.*
5. **Dative of possession**. The possessor of something is often set in the dative, usually accompanied by a form of the verb *to be*. *There is to the father a son = The father has a son.*
6. **Dative of degree of difference**. When comparative adjectives are used, the speaker sometimes wants to indicate *how much* bigger or smaller, etc. something is. In this structure the noun or adjective indicating measure is set in the dative. *The king is much wealthier than his subjects. This stone is fifty pounds heavier than the previous one.*

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7. **Appositive**. Appositives of datives are set in the dative. *A terrible thing happened to Oedipus, son of Laius.*

8. **Object of certain prepositions**. Many prepositions, including those that indicate fixed location, are answered by dative nouns. E.g., ἐν (*in*), παρά (*beside*).

9. **Object of certain verbs**. Some verbs take dative objects, where an English speaker would probably expect to find either an accusative direct object or a prepositional phrase. Your lexicon will identify verbs that take dative objects. For example, οἱ ναῦται τῷ κυβερνήτῃ βοηθοῦσιν (*The sailors help the captain*); ὁ κήρυξ ἀκολουθεῖ τῷ βασιλεῖ (*The herald follows the king*.)

Other common examples include: ἀνδάνω (*please*), ἀρέσκω (*please*), ἀπαρέσκω (*displease*), εὐνοέω (*be well-disposed towards*), ὀργίζομαι (*be angry at*); ἀπαντάω (*encounter*), πελάζω (*come near to*), εἴκω (*yield to*), πείθομαι (*be persuaded by, obey*), ὑπακούω (*obey*), πιστεύω (*trust*); ὅμοια (*be like, resemble*), πρέπω (*be fitting, suitable for*).

#### Vocative case

1. **Direct Address**. *Citizens, the city is in danger.*

2. **Appositive**. Appositives of vocatives are set in the vocative. *Oedipus, son of Laius, I bring you good news.*

## Adjective Syntax

### Agreement

Adjectives agree in gender, case, and number with the nouns (explicit or understood) that they modify.

### Nominal adjectives

When an adjective is not modifying an explicit noun, the speaker is understanding some noun, much as we do when we speak of *the rich* or *the poor* (meaning *the rich people, the poor people*). This use of the adjective is called the “nominal” use. The gender and number of the nominal adjective will indicate the noun the speaker is implying: masculine singular, *man*; masculine plural, *men*; feminine singular, *woman*; feminine plural, *women*; neuter singular, *thing*; neuter plural, *things*. So, τὰ καλὰ means *the good things*.

In specific contexts, some more specific noun may be understood. So, for example, in a discussion of horses, οἱ καλοὶ might well mean οἱ καλοὶ ἵπποι; *the good ones, i.e., the good horses*.

Word order

Adjectives that are used merely to describe are called attributive adjectives. If the noun is accompanied by a definite article, attributive adjectives must be *immediately* preceded by an article. So, *the good king* can be stated either as *ὁ καλὸς βασιλεὺς* or *ὁ βασιλεὺς ὁ καλός*.

Predicative adjectives make implicit statements. That is, they can carry some implied form of the verb *to be*. To do so, the noun modified by the adjective must be accompanied by a definite article, but the adjective must *not* be *immediately* preceded by a definite article. So, *The king is good* can be stated either as *καλὸς ὁ βασιλεὺς* or *ὁ βασιλεὺς καλός*.