

5. The cases / Οι πτώσεις

In a highly inflected language as Greek the role of the words in the sentence is not indicated by their position but by their cases. Cases are the different forms Greek words as articles, nouns, adjectives, pronouns, participles can have. The form of the words changes at the ending, the first part of the words, the so-called stem, does not change. Modern Greek has four cases:

1st : the nominative

2nd : the genitive

3rd : the accusative (in ancient Greek 4th)

4th : the vocative (case of direct address) (in ancient Greek 5th)

The nominative

The nominative indicates:

1. the **subject** in the sentence

Η Ελένη αγοράζει μήλα. Helen buys apples.

2. the **predicate** in the sentence as well, when linking verbs are used:

Ο Νίκος είναι καλός μαθητής. Nikos is a good pupil.

The genitive

The genitive indicates:

1. **possession**

Το αυτοκίνητο **του Νίκου**. Niko's car.

Το ποδήλατο **της Μαρίας**. Maria's bicycle.

2. **the indirect object** in the sentence, mostly persons or personal pronouns (or with certain verbs the direct object, e.g. τηλεφωνώ(phone), μοιάζω (look like))

Η γιαγιά δίνει **της Μαρίας** ένα δαχτυλίδι. Grandmother gives Maria a ring.

Του δίνω ένα βιβλίο. I give him a book.

Της δίνω καφέ. I offer her coffee.

Της τηλεφώνησα. I phoned her.

Μοιάζει του πατέρα του. He looks like his father.

3. **age**

Είμαι **23 χρονών**. I am 23 years old.

4. **date**

Τα γενέθλια μου είναι στις 15 **Μαρτίου**. My birthday is on the 15th of March.

The accusative

The accusative

1. indicates **the direct object** in the sentence:

Ο Νίκος γνωρίζει **τον Κώστα**. Nikos knows Kosta.

Ο Κώστας γνωρίζει **την Ελένη**. Kostas knows Helen.

2. is used **after a preposition**:

με το Νίκο with ...

από την Ελένη from ...

για τον Κώστα for ...

στον Ανδρέα to ...

στην Άννα to ...

3. may indicate **time**:

Πότε θα πας στη Μαρία; When will you go to Maria?

Τη Δευτέρα. On Monday.

The vocative

The vocative is used to **address somebody**:

Κώστα! **Νίκο!** **Ελένη!**

Γιατρέ! **Κυρίες και κύριοι!** **Παιδιά!**