

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 subject** (The genitive with nouns related to verbs may indicate the subject of the action. If these nouns convert to verbs, the word in genitive will become the subject of the sentence.)

Η νίκη **των Σπαρτιατών**. **Οι Σπαρτιάτες** νίκησαν. The victory of the Spartans. (The Spartans won.)

3. **The object** (The genitive with nouns related to verbs may indicate the direct object of the action. If these nouns convert to verbs, the word in genitive will become the direct object of the sentence.)

Είναι οι φρουροί **της χώρας**. Φρουρούν **τη χώρα**. They are the guardians of the country. (They guard the country)

4. **The indirect object** in the sentence, mostly persons or personal pronouns or **the direct object** with certain scholarly verbs and other, not easy to classify, verbs that denote expression, possession, action of the senses, e.g.: ηγούμαι (lead), δράττομαι (take), μιλώ (speak), απαντώ (answer), εξηγώ (explain), τηλεφωνώ (phone), μοιάζω (take after)

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 takes after his father.

Ηγείται **του στρατεύματος**.

He leads the troops.

Δράττομαι **της ευκαιρίας**.

I take the opportunity.

5. **Age, date, time**
Είμαι **23 (είκοσι τριών) χρονών**. I am 23 years old.
Τα γενέθλια μου είναι στις 15 **Μαρτίου**. My birthday is on the 15th of March.
Στα μέσα **της εβδομάδας**. In the middle of the week.
6. **Cause**
Η λύπη **του αποχωρισμού**. The sorrow of the farewell.
7. **Purpose, use**
Ταξίδι **αναψυχής**. Leisure trip.
Παπούτσια **ορειβασίας**. Climbing shoes.
8. **Characteristic**
Άνθρωπος **των γραμμάτων**. A literate person.
9. **Quantity**
Αγόρασε μία γαλοπούλα **τεσσάρων κιλών**. He/She bought a four kilos turkey.
Έχει άδεια **τριών μηνών**. He/She has a three months leave.
10. **Origin**
Καπνιστό τυρί **Μετσόβου**. Smoked cheese from Metsovo.
11. **Familial relationship**
Ο αδελφός **της Μαρίας**. Maria's brother.
12. **Place**
Η μάχη **του Μαραθώνα**. The battle of Marathon.

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 wil you go to Maria?
Τη Δευτέρα. On Monday.

The vocative

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

Κώστα! Νίκο! Ελένη! Γιατρέ! Παιδιά! Κυρίες και κύριοι!