

## FORM AND FUNCTION

### A guide

#### THE NOUN

The function of a noun (N) is determined by its case. Each case can have a variety of functions—which is correct will be determined by syntactical and contextual factors. The primary function of each case is listed first in the outline that follows.

Case (Form)	Possible Functions	Syntactical Clues	Question	Key Word(s)
<b>I. NOMINATIVE</b>	1. SUBJECT OF THE VERB		Who? What?	
	2. PREDICATE NOMINATIVE	Copulative finite verb (or no verb). Two nominatives in clause. Verb implies 1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> person subject.	Is what?	
<b>II. GENITIVE</b>	1. POSSESSIVE		Whose?	“of”
	2. OBJECT OF PREPOSITION	Follows a preposition (that takes the genitive)		
	3. DIRECT OBJECT	Finite verb takes a genitive object	Whom? What?	
	4. GENITIVE ABSOLUTE (GENITIVE SUBJECT IN AN ABSOLUTE CLAUSE)	Clause with <i>at least</i> a gen. participle and (usually) genitive nominal. The genitive is not subordinate to any other element of the sentence.	When? In what circumstances?	“after” “when”
	5. ADJECTIVAL/SUBSTANTIVAL	Genitive clause following an “extra” article. Modifies either the article's nominal or the article itself taken as a substantival pronoun.		
	6. TIME WITHIN WHICH		What kind of time?	
	7. PURPOSE	With infinitive.	Why?	“in order to”
	8. COMPARISON	With comparative adjectives. That to which the Head Noun is being compared can be in the genitive.	Than what?	“than”
<b>III. DATIVE</b>	1. INDIRECT OBJECT		To whomf/what? For whom?	“to” or “for”
	2. OBJECT OF PREPOSITION	Follows a preposition (that takes the dative)		
	3. DATIVE OF MEANS	Passive finite verb. Clause requires an <i>impersonal</i> agent.	By what?	“by” or “with”
	4. DIRECT OBJECT	Finite verb takes a genitive object	Whom? What?	
	5. TIME WHEN	Usually with <i>èv</i>	When?	
	6. DATIVE OF RESPECT	Indicates the respect in which something is true. Can be anywhere; context will clarify.	With respect to what?	“with respect to”
<b>IV. ACCUSATIVE</b>	1. DIRECT OBJECT		Whom? What?	
	2. OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION	Follows a preposition (that takes the accusative)		
	3. EXTENT OF TIME/SPACE	Sentence may have more than one accusative. The word in the accusative is temporal or spatial.	How far? How long?	“for”
	4. DOUBLE ACCUSATIVE	Some verbs (noted in a lexicon) take two accusatives. Consider both the direct object, though you may not translate them as such in English.	Whom? What?	
	5. “SUBJECT” OF AN INFINITIVE (REFERENCE)	Infinitive verbs take an accusative as their “subject.” You may see multiple accusatives here.	Who? What?	
	6. ACCUSATIVE OF REFERENCE	Similar to the dative of respect. Infrequent, except with infinitives (see above).	With reference to what?	“with reference to” “with respect to”

## THE ADJECTIVE

An adjective (Adj) modifies a noun or another substantive. An adjective will agree with its head noun (Hn) in case, gender, and number, and its function will be determined by its position relative to that noun and its article. If no head noun can be found, the adjective is probably a substantive and its function will be determined by its case (follow the chart for nouns, above).

General Function	Syntactic Clues	Example	Translation
<b>I. ATTRIBUTIVE</b>	i) Articular Adj, anarthrous Hn	ὁ ἀγαθὸς λόγος	“the good word”
	ii) Both Adj and Hn are articular	ὁ λόγος ὁ ἀγαθὸς	“the word (which is) good”; i.e. “the good word”
	iii) Both Adj and Hn are anarthrous	λόγος ἀγαθός	“the good word”
<b>II. PREDICATIVE</b>	i) Anarthrous Adj, Articular Hn	ὁ λόγος ἀγαθὸς οἱ ἀγαθὸς ὁ λόγος	“the word is good”
	ii) Both Adj and Hn are anarthrous	λόγος ἀγαθός	“the word is good”
	iii) Predicate of a Copulative verb	ὁ λόγος ἐστὶν ἀγαθός	“the word is good”
<b>III. SUBSTANTIVE</b>	No possible Hn. Will usually have the article (but not invariably).	βλέπω τὸν ἀγαθόν	“I see the good man”
<b>IV. COMPARATIVE</b>	Can be in any position, but will be in the comparative form (usually -τερος or -ίων)	ζῶη κρείσσω ἢ θάνατον ζῶη κρείσσω θάνατου	“life is better than death”
		ἡ ζῶη ἢ κρείσσω	“the better life”
<b>V. SUPERLATIVE</b>	Can be in any position, but will be superlative in form (usually -τατος or -ιστος)	ὄχλος πλεῖστος	“the greatest crowd”
<b>VI. ADJECTIVE AS AN ADVERB</b>	Usually neuter and either accusative or dative. Modifies the verb (no head noun). Common with: ἴδιον, λοιπόν, μικρόν, μόνον, πολύ, πρῶτον.	πρῶτον ἦλθον	“I went first”

## THE ADVERB

For our purposes there are two basic types of adverbs, both of which modify a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. Most of the time, adverbs function as true adverbs, but some can also double as prepositions that take the genitive.

General Function	Syntactical Clues	Specific Function	Example
<b>I. AS AN ADVERB</b>	Standard usage.	1. TIME	“I was happy <i>then</i> ”
		2. PLACE	“I was happy <i>there</i> ”
		3. MANNER	“I was <i>justly</i> happy”
		4. DEGREE	“I was <i>very</i> happy”
<b>II. AS A PREPOSITION</b>	Sometimes called an “improper preposition.” Takes a genitive.	Common with adverbs of place (ἔξω, ἐγγύς)	“I was happy <i>outside the city</i> .”

## THE PERSONAL PRONOUNS

The personal pronouns (Pp) (ἐγώ, σύ, αὐτός) take the place of a noun, which is called the antecedent. It will agree with its antecedent in personal and number, but not (necessarily) case. The case of the personal pronoun will determine its function. If the case of ἐγώ or σύ is nominative, the personal pronoun is an *emphatic* pronoun (I myself, etc.), but in all other cases the function of the personal pronoun is identical to that of nouns; follow the chart for nouns, above. αὐτός is special because it can function as the third person personal pronoun and as an adjective (see below).

## THE THIRD PERSON PERSON PRONOUN: αὐτός

The third person person pronoun αὐτός is special because unlike ἐγώ or σὺ it can function not only as a personal pronoun but also as an adjective. When αὐτός is used as an adjective it will agree with its head noun in case, person, and number. If αὐτός is preceded by an article, it *must* be an identical adjective. If not, look for any possible head nouns—if you find one, it is probably an intensive adjective. If you cannot find a possible head noun and αὐτός is nominative, it may intensify the subject of the verb (either implied or made explicit with another personal pronoun). Otherwise, you are probably dealing with the normal pronominal use of αὐτός.

Function	Possible “Positions” / Syntactical Clues	Example	Translation
<b>I. PRONOUN</b>	Must be anarthrous. May agree with an antecedent in gender and number, but not case. No possible Hn.	λέγω αὐτῷ αὐτό	“I say it to him”
<b>II. INTENSIVE ATTRIBUTIVE ADJECTIVE</b>	i) “Predicate” Position ii) Or Nominative case with a verb (and no possible Hn)	τὸν λόγον αὐτόν λέγω τῷ ἀποστόλῳ αὐτῷ	“the word itself” “I speak to the apostle himself.”
<b>III. IDENTICAL ATTRIBUTIVE ADJECTIVE</b>	“Attributive” Position	ὁ λόγος ὁ αὐτός λέγω τῷ αὐτῷ ἀποστόλῳ	“the same word” “I speak to the same apostle”
<b>IV. IDENTICAL SUBSTANTIVAL ADJECTIVE</b>	Will have the article (unlike the pronominal use) but will not adjectivally modify a noun (unlike the attributive adjective).	λέγω τῷ αὐτῷ	“I speak to the same man.”

## THE DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS: οὗτος, ἐκεῖνος

The demonstratives point or specify something. Though technically classified as pronouns, they can function as either a pronoun or an adjective. Demonstratives will *never* have the article, so if they function as an adjective they will always be in predicate position. If a pronoun, the demonstrative will agree with its antecedent in gender and number but not necessarily case (like the personal pronouns); its function will be determined by its case, as with nouns. Note: you may need to supply an extra noun in English! If an adjective, it will agree with its head noun in case, gender, and number and it will *always* be in predicate position and *always* function as an attributive. Also note that there is no “substantival” demonstrative adjective.

Function	Syntactical Cues and Notes	Example	Translation
<b>I. PRONOUN</b>	No Hn. Function will be determined by case.	βλέπω ἐκεῖνον βλέπω ἐκεῖνην	“I see that” “I see that woman.”
<b>II. ADJECTIVE (ATTRIBUTIVE)</b>	Agrees with a Hn in person, case, and number. Always in predicate position.	βλέπω τὸν ἄνθρωπον ἐκεῖνον	“I see that man”

## THE INTERROGATIVE AND INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

Similar in form, the interrogative (who? which?) differs from the indefinite (some, someone) pronoun in that the former receives the accent. Both follow the same pattern as the demonstrative: they can either be used independently as a simple pronoun or as an adjective modifying a noun. In the latter case, it will agree with that noun in case, as well as gender and number, and will never receive the article.

## THE REFLEXIVE AND RECIPROCAL PRONOUNS

This one is easy: it always acts as a pronoun (rather than an adjective) and the antecedent is always the subject. The function is determined by the case; follow the noun guide.

## THE RELATIVE PRONOUN

The relative pronoun differs from the other pronouns in that they form a relative clause, which is always dependent and has both a subject and a verb. Like participles, we can talk about the function of the relative pronoun in two ways. First, its function *within the relative clause* will be determined by its case—follow the guide for the standard noun. Second, the function *of the entire relative clause* will be determined by the relationship the pronoun sustains to its antecedent. Relative clauses usually *describe* their antecedent adjectivally, but they can occur without an antecedent and thereby function as a nominal (“substantival” relative clause). No chart is provided here—you will not need one until we start diagramming. For purposes of tests, the function of a relative pronoun is determined by its case; for example, you might say something like “it creates a relative clause describing (x) in which it functions as a(n) (y),” replacing (x) with an antecedent (perhaps implied) and (y) with a nominal function.

## SPECIAL PREPOSITIONS

Some prepositions have special semantic uses in various syntactical constructions, expressing a special kind of relationship between elements in the sentence. These should be memorized along with the situation within which they occur.

Preposition	Syntactical Cues	Semantic Function	Key word
<b>I. ὑπό with the genitive</b>	Passive finite verb. The genitive noun in the prepositional phrase is a personal agent.	Agency (personal). “By whom?”	“by”
<b>II. Prepositions as attributive adjectives</b>	Preposition follows an article.	The prepositional phrase modifies the nominal associated with the article.	
<b>III. Prepositions with the infinitive</b>	Preposition precedes an articular infinitive. The article will be in the case required by the preposition.	There is a variety of uses here, dependent upon the preposition in question, but include purpose, result, various temporal clauses. See the verbal moods guide.	

## CONJUNCTIONS

There are many conjunctions, but they all serve two primary functions: coordinating and subordinating clauses. Nevertheless, some conjunctions have certain special uses which should be kept in mind lest they should cause confusion.

Conjunction	Semantic Function	Syntactic and Semantic Clues	Key word
<b>I. καί</b>	<b>A. COORDINATING CONJUNCTION (SIMPLE ADDITIVE).</b>	Joins two words or clauses.	“and”
	<b>B. CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTION (COMBINING ADDITIVE)</b>	καί... καί	“both... and”
	<b>C. FOCUSING: ADJUNCTIVE ADDITIVE</b>	Stands before the word it modifies. Brings a new thought into the discourse.	“also”
	<b>D. FOCUSING: ASCENSIVE ADDITIVE</b>	Stands before the word it modifies. Focuses attention on a previous thought.	“even”
<b>II. οὐδέ</b>	<b>A. COORDINATING CONJUNCTION (SIMPLE ADDITIVE)</b>	Joins (and negates) two words or clauses.	“and not” “nor”
	<b>B. CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTION (COMBINING ADDITIVE)</b>	οὐδέ... οὐδέ	“neither... nor”
	<b>C. FOCUSING: ASCENSIVE ADDITIVE</b>	Stands before the word it modifies. Focuses attention on a previous thought.	“not even”
<b>III. μή</b>	<b>A. AS A CONJUNCTION: “LEST”</b>	With the subjunctive. Usually after words of fearing, sometimes introducing negative purpose.	“lest”
	<b>B. NEGATIVE RHETORICAL QUESTIONS</b>	With indicative, introduces a question that expects a negative answer.	“is it not” “is it not the case that”