

Uses of Cases in Koiné Greek

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Nominative

Subject of verb

ὁ πατήρ ἀγαπᾷ τὸν υἱόν

The Father loves the Son.

Predicate nominative

ὁ θεὸς ἀγάπη ἐστίν

God is love.

Pendant nominative

πᾶν ῥῆμα ἀργὸν ὃ λαλήσουσιν οἱ ἄνθρωποι ἀποδώσουσιν

Every idle word which men speak, they will give an account.

Appellation

ἤγγισεν πρὸς τὸ ὄρος τὸ καλούμενον Ἐλαιῶν

They drew near to the mount called Olive.

Genitive

Qualitative/Descriptive

κατὰ πνεῦμα ἀγιωσύνης

according to the Spirit of holiness

γέγραπται· ὁ οἶκός μου οἶκος προσευχῆς κληθήσεται

It is written: "My house shall be called a house of prayer."

Relation

λέγω δὲ τοῦτο ὅτι ἕκαστος ὑμῶν λέγει· ἐγὼ μὲν εἰμι Παύλου, ἐγὼ δὲ Ἀπολλῶ, ἐγὼ δὲ Κηφᾶ, ἐγὼ δὲ Χριστοῦ.

For each of you says: "I am of Paul," "I am of Apollos," "I am of Cephas," "I am of Christ."

Possession

γέγραπται· ὁ οἶκός μου οἶκος προσευχῆς κληθήσεται

It is written: "My house shall be called a house of prayer."

Epexegetic/Appositive

καὶ αὐτοὶ τὴν ἀπαρχὴν τοῦ πνεύματος ἔχοντες

And we ourselves, who have the firstfruit of the Spirit...

Required by some verbs

καὶ ὅς ἂν τόπος μὴ δέξηται ὑμᾶς μηδὲ ἀκούσωσιν ὑμῶν

and whatever place does not receive you, nor hear you...

Temporal

οὗτος ἦλθεν πρὸς αὐτὸν νυκτὸς
This one came to him at night.

Local

Οἱ δὲ ἑνδεκα μαθηταὶ ἐπορεύθησαν ... εἰς τὸ ὄρος οὗ ἐτάξατο αὐτοῖς
ὁ Ἰησοῦς
And the eleven disciples went...to the mountain where Jesus had commanded
them.

Price

τιμῆς ἠγοράσθητε· μὴ γίνεσθε δούλοι ἀνθρώπων.
You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.

καὶ συνεψήφισαν τὰς τιμὰς αὐτῶν καὶ εὔρον ἀργυρίου μυριάδας πέντε
and they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of
silver

Partitive?

Νυνὶ δὲ Χριστὸς ἐγήγερται ἐκ νεκρῶν ἀπαρχὴ τῶν κεκοιμημένων.
Now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruit of those who have slept.

Objective

εἰδότες δὲ ὅτι οὐ δικαιοῦται ἄνθρωπος ἐξ ἔργων νόμου ἐὰν μὴ διὰ
πίστεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ,
knowing that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus
Christ

Subjective

τοῖς στοιχοῦσιν τοῖς ἴχνεσιν τῆς...πίστεως Ἀβραάμ.
to those who follow the example of the faith of Abraham

Comparison?

οὐχὶ ἡ ψυχὴ πλεῖον ἐστὶν τῆς τροφῆς
Is not life more than food?

Absolute?

καὶ ἐκβληθέντος τοῦ δαιμονίου ἐλάλησεν ὁ κωφός
And after the demon was cast out, the dumb man spoke.

Ablative/Genitive

Separation

ἀπηλλοτριωμένοι τῆς πολιτείας τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ
alienated from the commonwealth of Israel

Dative

Indirect object

πάντα ἀποδώσω σοι
I will give you all things.

Advantage and disadvantage (n.b.: this is a sub-category of dative of indirect object, indicating that the noun in the dative has personal interest of high degree. Some grammarians do not list it as a separate use from the indirect object)

ὡς νύμφην κεκοσμημένην τῷ ἀνδρὶ αὐτῆς
as a bride adorned for her husband

Respect/Relation

τῇ ἀμαρτίᾳ ἀπέθανεν
He died to sin.

Μακάριοι οἱ πτωχοὶ τῷ πνεύματι
Blessed are the poor in spirit.

Possession

ὑμῖν γὰρ ἐστὶν ἡ ἐπαγγελία καὶ τοῖς τέκνοις ὑμῶν
The promise is yours and your children's.

Locative/Dative

Locative

τοῦτον ὁ θεὸς ...ὑψώσεν τῇ δεξιᾷ αὐτοῦ
This one God exalted to his right hand.

Temporal

τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἐγερθήσεται
On the third day he will be raised.

Instrumental/Dative

Instrument/Means

καὶ ἐξέβαλεν τὰ πνεύματα λόγῳ
And he cast out the spirits with a word.

Agent

ὅσοι γὰρ πνεύματι θεοῦ ἄγονται, οὗτοι υἱοὶ θεοῦ εἰσιν.
For as many as are led by the Spirit, these are the sons of God.

Manner

εἰ ἐγὼ χάριτι μετέχω
If I partake with thankfulness

Cause

ὅσοι φόβῳ θανάτου διὰ παντὸς τοῦ ζῆν ἔνοχοι ἦσαν δουλείας
who because of fear of death were held in lifelong bondage.

Accusative

Direct object of transitive verbs

ἀλήθειαν λέγω
I speak truth

Subject of infinitive

Πρὸ τοῦ δὲ ἐλθεῖν τὴν πίστιν
Before faith came

Double accusative

ἐκεῖνος ὑμᾶς διδάξει πάντα
That one will teach you all things.

Cognate

καὶ ἐφοβήθησαν φόβον μέγαν
And they feared a great fear.

τὸν καλὸν ἀγῶνα ἠγώνισμαι
I have fought the good fight.

Adverbial

τί ὧδε ἐστήκατε ὅλην τὴν ἡμέραν ἀργοί
Why do you stand here all day idle?

Vocative

Address