

Genitive Case

Chapter 3

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Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Descriptive

Further limits or describes the head noun, but other common genitival categories do not capture the specific nuance.

βάπτισμα μετανοίας

a baptism **of** repentance
(Mark 1:4).

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Attributive

Denotes an attribute or innate quality of the head term, conveying an emphatic adjectival idea.

τῷ ῥήματι τῆς δυνάμεως αὐτοῦ

by His **powerful** word
(Heb 1:3).

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Possession

Identifies ownership with regard to the noun it modifies, often employing the use of a possessive pronoun.

καὶ εἰσελθόντες εἰς τὸν οἶκον Φιλίππου

we entered the house **of** Philip
(Acts 21:8).

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Relationship

Denotes a family relationship such as a person's parent or spouse. The word indicating the relationship is often omitted and must be inferred.

Ἰάκωβον τὸν τοῦ Ζεβεδαίου

James the [son] **of** Zebedee
(Matt 4:21).

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Source (Origin)

Indicates the origin of the head noun ("from").

τὴν τοῦ θεοῦ δικαιοσύνην

the righteousness **from** God
(Rom 10:3).

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Material

Indicates the material of which the head term is made.

γόμον χρυσοῦ καὶ ἀργύρου καὶ λίθου τιμίου
καὶ μαργαριτῶν

merchandise of gold, silver, precious stones, and
pearls (Rev 18:12).

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Content

Specifies the content of an object or abstract noun.

ποτήριον ὕδατος

a cup of water
(Mark 9:41).

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Partitive

Whether by itself or in conjunction with the preposition ἀπό or ἐκ, the articular noun in the genitive denotes the whole of which the head noun is a part.

ἐν τῶν πλοίων

one of the boats
(Luke 5:3).

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Subjective

Functions semantically as the subject of the verbal idea implied in the head noun, **producing** the action (love of God = God loves [someone]).

τίς ἡμᾶς χωρίσει ἀπὸ τῆς ἀγάπης τοῦ Χριστοῦ;

Who can separate us from the love of Christ?
(Rom 8:35).

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Objective

Functions semantically as the direct object of the verbal idea implicit in the head noun, **receiving** the action (love of God = [someone] loves God).

ἔχετε πίστιν θεοῦ

Have faith in God
(Mark 11:22).

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Time

Indicates the location in time an action occurs (answers when?)

λαβόντες δὲ οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ νυκτὸς

but his disciples took him by night
(Acts 9:25).

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Place

Indicates the location in space where an action occurs (answers where?).

μετὰ δὲ τὴν μετοικεσίαν **Βαβυλῶνος**

Then after the exile **to Babylon**
(Matt 1:12 NIV).

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Separation

Indicates motion away from or distance, whether literally or figuratively (“from”).

ἀποστήσονται τινες **τῆς πίστεως**

some will depart **from the faith**
(1 Tim 4:1).

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Means

Conveys the **impersonal** means by which a given action is carried out (“by” or “with”).

ὁ γὰρ θεὸς ἀπείραστος ἐστὶν **κακῶν**

For God is not tempted **by evil**
(James 1:13).

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Agency

Conveys the **personal** agent by which a given action is carried out (“by”).

δεῦτε, οἱ εὐλογημένοι **τοῦ πατρὸς μου**

Come, you who are blessed **by my Father**
(Matt. 25:34).

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Comparison

Used to denote comparison in conjunction with a comparative adverb (“than”).

μείζων ἐστὶν ὁ θεὸς **τῆς καρδίας** ἡμῶν

God is greater **than** our **heart**
(1 John 3:20).

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Price, Value or Quantity

Indicates the price that is paid or the value that attaches to a given item.

ἡγοράσθητε γὰρ **τιμῆς**

For you have been bought **with a price**
(1 Cor 6:20 NASB).

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Apposition

Simple Apposition: Provides an alternate designation where the head noun is also in the genitive.

διὰ Ἰερεμίου τοῦ προφήτου

through Jeremiah **the prophet**
(Matt 2:17).

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Apposition

Epexegetical: States a specific example that is part of a larger category named by the head noun.

τὴν δωρεάν τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος

the gift **of the Holy Spirit**
(Acts 2:38).

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Direct Object

Verbs of sensation, emotion or volition, sharing, ruling, or separation, take their **direct object** in the genitive case (instead of the accusative case).

οἱ νεκροὶ ἀκούσουσιν τῆς φωνῆς

The dead **will hear the voice**
(John 5:25).