

Dative Case

Chapter 4

Dative Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Indirect Object

Indicates the one for whom or in whose interest an act is performed.

δὸς δόξαν **τῷ θεῷ**

Give glory **to God**
(John 9:24).

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Personal Interest: Advantage

Denotes the person (or rarely, the thing) to whose **benefit** a verbal action occurs (“for”).

ὡς νύμφην κεκοσμημένην **τῷ ἀνδρὶ** αὐτῆς

like a bride adorned **for** her **husband**
(Rev 21:2).

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Personal Interest: Disadvantage

Denotes the person (or rarely, the thing) to whose **detriment** a verbal action occurs (“against”).

ἡ δὲ Ἡρωδίας ἐνεῖχεν **αὐτῷ**

So Herodias held a grudge **against him**
(Mark 6:19).

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Reference (Respect)

Limits the extent to which something is presented as true, qualifying a statement that would otherwise not be true.

τῇ ἀμαρτίᾳ ἀπέθανεν ἐφάπαξ

He died **to sin** once for all
(Rom 6:10).

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Possession

Unique construction in which the dative possesses the subject of an equative verb (such as εἰμι or γίνομαι).

ὕμῖν γάρ ἐστιν ἡ ἐπαγγελία

For the promise is **for you**
(Acts 2:39).

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Place

Pinpoints the literal physical location of a noun in the dative case (“in,” “on,” “at,” “to”).

τοὺς περὶ αὐτὸν **κύκλῳ** καθημένους

those who were sitting **in a circle** around Him
(Mark 3:34).

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Sphere

Identifies the figurative or metaphorical location (i.e., sphere or realm) of a noun in the dative case.

ἀναστενάξας **τῷ πνεύματι** αὐτοῦ

sighing deeply **in His spirit**
(Mark 8:12).

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Time

Indicates the point in time (location in time) at which the action of a verb is accomplished.

καὶ **τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ τρίτῃ** γάμος ἐγένετο

On the third day a wedding took place
(John 2:1).

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Means

Denotes the **impersonal** means by which the action of a given verb is accomplished (“by,” “with”).

κατακόπτων ἑαυτὸν **λίθοις**

cutting himself **with stones**
(Mark 5:5).

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Manner

Denotes the manner in which the action of a given verb is accomplished (“with” or “in”).

παρρησίᾳ τὸν λόγον ἐλάλει

He was **openly** talking about this
(Mark 8:32).

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Agency

Denotes the **personal** agency by which the action of a given verb is accomplished (“by”).

εἰ δὲ **πνεύματι** ἄγεσθε

But if you are led **by the Spirit**
(Gal 5:18).

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Association

Denotes the person or thing with which a person is associated or by which a person is accompanied (“with”).

συνταφέντες **αὐτῷ** ἐν τῷ βαπτισμῷ

Having been buried **with Him** in baptism
(Col 2:12).

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Cause

Indicates the basis or reason of the action of a given verb, whether external (occasion) or internal (motivation).

ἐγὼ δὲ **λιμῷ** ὥδε ἀπόλλυμαι

here I am dying [**because**] **of hunger!**
(Luke 15:17).

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Cognate

Use of a dative noun that is a cognate (of the same stem) to the verb it modifies either formally or conceptually.

ἐξέστησαν ἐκστάσει μεγάλη

They were **utterly** astonished
(Mark 5:42).

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Apposition

Two related substantives refer to the same person or thing.

ἐν τῷ Βεελζεβούλ **ἄρχοντι** τῶν δαιμονίων

by Beelzebul, **the ruler** of the demons
(Matt 12:24).

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Direct Object

The dative occurs after certain verbs of trusting, obeying, serving, worshiping, thanksgiving or following and functions as a **direct object**.

εὐχαριστοῦμεν **τῷ θεῷ** ... πάντοτε

We always thank **God**
(Col 1:3).