

Nominative, Vocative,
& Accusative

Chapter 2

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| Five-Case System (Form) | Eight-Case System (Function) |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Nominative | 1. Nominative (Designation) |
| 2. Genitive | 2. Genitive (Description) |
| | 3. Ablative (Separation) |
| 3. Dative | 4. Dative (Interest) |
| | 5. Locative (Location) |
| | 6. Instrumental (Means) |
| 4. Accusative | 7. Accusative (Extension) |
| 5. Vocative | 8. Vocative (Address) |

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Nominative Case

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Nominative Case

Subject

The subject of a finite verb.

Ἰωάννης μαρτυρεῖ περὶ αὐτοῦ

John testified about Him
(John 1:15 NASB).

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Nominative Case

Predicate Nominative

Provides further information about the subject as a complement of a copulative verb (expressing a state of being).

ὁ λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο

the Word became flesh
(John 1:14).

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Nominative Case

Apposition

Further explains the subject by clarification, description, or identification.

Παῦλος δούλος Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus
(Rom 1:1).

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Nominative Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Address

Used in the place of a vocative in direct address.

οἱ ἄνδρες, ἀγαπᾶτε τὰς γυναῖκας

Husbands, love your wives
(Eph 5:25).

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Nominative Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Appellation

Used in conjunction with an address or title where a case other than the nominative would be expected.

ὁμεῖς φωνεῖτέ με **Ὁ διδάσκαλος**

You call me **Teacher**
(John 13:13).

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Nominative Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Absolute

Grammatically independent use of the nominative in introductory material (such as titles, headings, salutations, or addresses).

Παῦλος δοῦλος θεοῦ

Paul, a servant of God
(Titus 1:1).

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Nominative Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Hanging Nominative

The logical rather than syntactical subject at the beginning of a sentence.

ὁ νικῶν ποιήσω αὐτὸν στῦλον ἐν τῷ ναῷ τοῦ θεοῦ μου

The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God (Rev 3:12 ESV).

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Vocative Case

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Vocative Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Direct Address

The use of the articular or non-articular vocative to designate the person or thing being addressed.

Λάζαρε, δεῦρο ἕξω

Lazarus, come out!
(John 11:43).

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Accusative Case

Accusative Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Direct Object

Serves as the recipient of the action.

οὕτως γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν κόσμον

For God so loved the world
(John 3:16).

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Accusative Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Cognate Accusative

Aligned with the verb either with regard to the lexical root or the idea conveyed.

ἵνα στρατεύῃ ἐν αὐταῖς τὴν καλὴν στρατείαν

that by them you fight the good fight
(1 Tim 1:18 NASB).

Accusative Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Double Accusative

A verb requires more than one accusative object to complete the thought, taking either (1) a personal and impersonal object or (2) a direct and predicate object.

ὁ δοὺς ἑαυτὸν ἀντίλυτρον ὑπὲρ πάντων

who gave himself as a ransom for all
(1 Tim 2:6).

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Accusative Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Subject of Infinitive

Functions as the subject of an infinitive, indicating the agent performing the action conveyed by the infinitive.

πρὸ τοῦ σε Φίλιππον φωνῆσαι ... εἶδόν σε

Before Philip called you ... I saw you
(John 1:48).

Accusative Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Apposition

Two accusatives are juxtaposed, both referring to the same person or thing, with the second accusative further specifying the first accusative.

καὶ ἐπὶ πῶλον υἱὸν ὑποζυγίου

and on a colt, the foal of a donkey
(Matt 21:5).

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Accusative Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Measure (Time or Space)

Functions in essence like an adverb in that it specifies
measure (time or space).

καὶ προσελθὼν μικρόν, ἔπεσεν ἐπὶ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ

And going a little farther, he fell on his face
(Matt 26:39 ESV).

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Accusative Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Manner

Functions in essence like an adverb in that it
specifies manner.

δικαιούμενοι δωρεάν τῇ αὐτοῦ χάριτι

They are justified freely by His grace
(Rom 3:24).

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Accusative Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Respect (Reference)

Restricts the reference of the verbal action, indicating
in what regard an action is represented as true.

κατενύγησαν τὴν καρδίαν

they were pierced to the heart
(Acts 2:37).

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Accusative Case

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

With Oaths

The accusative in oaths specifies the person or thing by
whom or which a person swears an oath.

ἐνορκίζω ὑμᾶς τὸν κύριον

I charge you by the Lord
(1 Thess 5:27).

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