

Summary of the Most Common Uses of the Dative Case

Pure Dative Uses

Name	Definition	Translated by	Other Important Elements/Identification	Examples
Dative of Indirect Object *(pp. 140-142)	The substantive in the dative is given (or receives) the direct object of an active verb, or is given (or receives) the subject of a passive verb.	‘to’, ‘for’	- Most common use of Dative Case. - Verb must be transitive. - If dative can be translated ‘to’ or ‘for’, then it is most likely an indirect object.	John 4:10 ‘he would have given <u>to you</u> living water’ 2 Cor 12:7 ‘a thorn in the flesh was given <u>to me</u> ’
Dative of Interest (including ‘Advantage’ and ‘Disadvantage’) (pp. 142-144)	The dative substantive indicates the person interested in the verbal action; either for advantage or disadvantage. Typically belongs to the category of Indirect Object, but the idea of interest (advantage/disadvantage) is prominent.	<u>Advantage</u> : ‘for the benefit of’, ‘in the interest of’ <u>Disadvantage</u> : ‘for the detriment of’, ‘against’	- The connotation of the verb is frequently a major clue as to whether the dative is simply an Indirect Object, or Dative of Interest.	Advantage: 1 Cor 6:13 ‘food is <u>for [the benefit of] the stomach</u> ’ Disadvantage: Matt 23:31 ‘you testify <u>against yourselves</u> ’
Dative of Reference/Respect (pp. 144-146)	This dative substantive states the reference to which a statement is true; it qualifies a statement that could otherwise be false. Could be called ‘frame of reference’ or ‘qualifying’ dative.	‘with reference to’, in regard to’ ‘concerning’		Rom 6:2 ‘how shall we who died <u>[with reference] to sin</u> still live in it?’ Rom 6:11 ‘consider yourselves to be dead <u>to sin</u> ’

Locative (Local) Dative Uses

Name	Definition	Translated by	Other Important Elements/Identification	Examples
Dative of Sphere		‘in the sphere of’		
Dative of Time	Shows the point in time at which something occurs and answers the question “When?”			

* Page numbering refers to the major section where this topic is discussed in “Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics” by Daniel B. Wallace.

Instrumental Dative Uses

Name	Definition	Translated by	Other Important Elements/Identification	Examples
Dative of Association		‘in association with’		
Dative of Means/ Instrument (pp. 162-163)		‘by’, ‘by means of’, ‘with’		
Dative of Cause		‘because of’		

Like the other oblique cases, the dative can be used as the direct object of certain verbs (especially related to verbs implying personal relation), after certain prepositions, and after certain ‘verbal’ nouns, which usually convey the idea of personal interest, and after certain adjectives conveying personal interest (such as adjectives showing ‘likeness’ and others belonging to the category of ‘reference’).

Like all the other cases, another common use of the dative is in simple apposition to another substantive in the same case. This involves two datives, the second one clarifying the first. The first dative can belong to any dative use; the second one ‘piggy-backs’ on its use. (pp. 152-153)