

Greek Cases: Form vs. Use In Classical & Koiné Greek

Greek I uses the Analytical Greek New Testament as a tool for the grammatical analysis of each word being examined. The Analytical Greek New Testament identifies the word being examined **according to form**. (The same way as classical Greek — see Lesson 4, Section XIII, A, page 59). For example, in the Analytical Greek New Testament, all words ending in the second inflectional form will be identified as being in the dative case.

However, in this course we are teaching New Testament Greek which contains **eight** cases. In Koiné Greek, **the way a word is used determines its case** — (See Lesson 4, Section XIII, B, page 59).

This is the procedure we will follow:

- a) First determine the **inflectional form** (from the Analytical Greek New Testament).
- b) Second, note how the word is **used**, that is **the context**, to determine the exact case.

How to Apply This Instruction

- (1) When the **nominative** and **vocative** have different forms the Analytical New Testament shows the different cases. However, when the nominative and vocative uses the same form (first inflectional form) you will have to determine the case by context.
- (2) Any time a word is identified as a **genitive** (the second inflectional form) in the Analytical New Testament, **the reader has to determine by the way the word is used whether it is a true genitive or an ablative** (the case of separation). Remember that both genitive and ablative cases are in the second inflectional form. Again the determination is made by taking into consideration the context. If difficulty is encountered, you can use a technical commentary to assist you in making determination. (See Appendix B—Source Materials)
- (3) Anytime the Analytical New Testament identifies a word as being in the **dative** case (third inflectional form), the same steps must be followed to determine if the word is **dative, locative, or instrumental**. That is, identify how the word is used in the context.
- (4) The **accusative** case is the only case appearing in the fourth inflectional form.