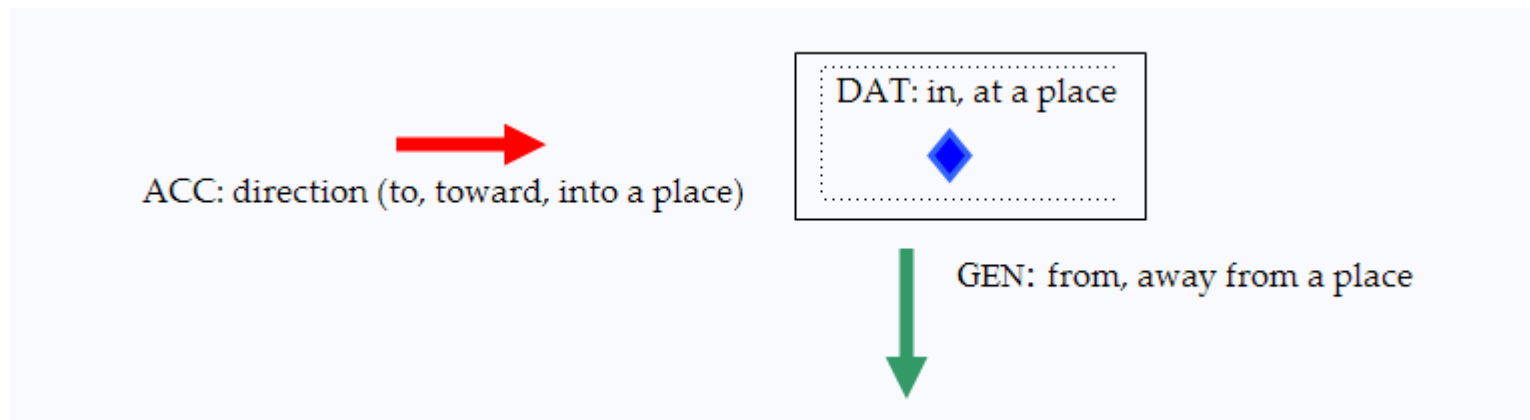


4.4: Prepositional Phrases

Cases by themselves do not suffice, obviously, to express the innumerable meanings a language involves, such as adverbial complements of place (at home), time (after dinner), circumstances (against him, without respite), and many more. To represent these nuances English resorts almost always to combinations like those given as examples above; Greek does so less often but also continually. We will not call these combinations "prepositional phrases," even though that would be correct. We will instead define them more specifically.

In the combination of a preposition + a noun, adjective, or pronoun, i.e. any declinable part of speech, the preposition imposes a specific case. So, e.g., ἐν must be accompanied by the Dative. We will mark such a prepositional phrase as ἐν + dat. A few prepositions may take more than one case, but the meanings of the combinations vary. In other words, the case deserves greater attention than the preposition, especially with reference to space.

A simple representation of the spatial values of Accusative, Genitive, and Dative is this:



Note: These are adverbial connotations of the cases. Of the multiple functions of the **genitive**, you have learned that of a complement equivalent to English "of"; yet the genitive, in a number of other usages (including the prepositional phrases in this lesson) suggests *separation, motion from or away from a place*. While the **dative** may mark the I O (to or for someone or something) it may also refer to a *place where* someone or something is located, standing, sitting, etc. and so it is equivalent to English *in or at*. This function is often called a *locative dative*. In turn, the **accusative**, in addition to marking the D O, may be adverbial, denoting direction, sometimes even by itself. Prepositions with the accusative denote "motion towards." Knowing this you will understand why someone walking **ὑπό + accusative** is going "toward the foot, or the base," of a mountain, a tree, a monument, etc., whereas **ὑπό + dative** describes the situation of someone at rest "at the foot" of a vertical object.

EXAMPLES

1) καλὰ δένδρα ἐστίνι ἐν τῷ παραδείσῳ.

..... S V ἐν + dat

There are beautiful trees in the garden.

2) αἱ κόραι καὶ οἱ ἀδελφοὶ βαίνουσι(ν) ἐς τὸ ἱερόν.

..... S V ἐς + acc

The girls and //their// brothers walk to (i.e. towards) the temple.

3) βαῖνε ἐκ τοῦ ἱεροῦ, ᾧ δοῦλε κακέ.

V ἐκ + gen voc

Bad slave, walk out of the temple!

4) ἄρα διὰ τῆς ὕλης αἰὲν βαίνεις; χαλεπόν2 ἐστιν.

διὰ + gen adv V PN V

Do you (sg) always walk through the forest? //It// is hard.

Note 1 When it is accompanied by an adverbial modifier denoting place, the verb *to be* is not a linking verb; normally in this case it does not take a predicate nominative. This is always the case when **ἔστιν** means “there is.”

Note 2 While in English we need the subject *it*, this sentence has no explicit subject in Greek. Because it means “it is difficult,” the PN must be neuter. You could translate “It is a difficult thing.”