

### Review 2.3: Basic uses of the cases

#### GENITIVE

**Modifier of a noun, pronoun, adjective, etc.** It expresses possession and other relationships that we do not identify specifically in this course. Thus it is equivalent to the English possessive case or the English prepositional phrase “of...” It may be in the attributive or the predicative position, usually with not difference in meaning.

ἄρ' ἤγοντο τοὺς τοῦ κυρίου ἵππους;

ἄρ' ἤγοντο τοὺς ἵππους τοῦ κυρίου;

Both examples mean: *Were they carrying away (= stealing) the master's horses?*

ἤκουσαν τῶν γερόντων.      *They heard the old men.*

παίδων τῶν ὑμετέρων ἄρξετε.      *You will rule your children.*

**Genitive governed by a preposition**, often, though not necessarily always, denoting “motion away from.”

ἀπό + gen = away from a place; ἐκ + gen = out of a place; πρὸς + gen = from.

In other examples it is less clear why the Genitive is governed by a given preposition:

διὰ + gen = through, across; μετὰ + gen = with; πρὸ + gen = in front of, before; ὑπὸ + gen, with a passive verbal form, identifies its agent = “by someone.”