

Review 2.3: Basic uses of the cases

DATIVE

Three principal functions

i) **Indirect dative**: It shows *to or for whom (or what)* the action of the verb takes place. A similar function of the dative completes sometimes an adjective, indicating *for whom or what* something is easy, useful, etc.

κακὸν οὐδὲν ὑμῖν ἔσται.

Literally, "There will be no harm for you." = *No harm will come to you.*

A special application is the *dative of possession*, usually with the verb *to be*.

οὐκ ἦν αὐτοῖς τέκνον.

Literally, "There was no child for them" = *They had no child.*

ii) **Instrumental dative**, with active or passive verbs. It shows *by means of what* something takes place. It has numerous applications, e.g. the *manner* of the action, its *cause*, etc.

λύεται δόλω.

He is freed by means of / by deceit / by a trick. (means)

θορύβῳ βαίνουσι(ν).

They walk with an uproar. (manner)

φόβῳ θανάου ἐδουλεύοντο.

Because of the fear of death they were enslaved. (cause)

iii) **Locative dative.** It makes reference to a place *in or at*, or a time *when*.

τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἐγείρεται.

On the third day he is raised up.

The dative may be governed by a preposition: ἐν + dat = in or at a place; ὑπό + dat = in or at the foot or base (e.g. of a tree, a mountain).

ἐμμένω τοῖς ὅρκοις. *I abide by the oaths.*