

English Grammar as it relates to Beginning Latin

Subject: a person, place, or thing named = NOMINATIVE CASE in Latin

Verb: what is said about the noun.

Direct Object: a noun that complements (completes) the verb = ACCUSATIVE CASE in Latin

Articles: adjectives in English, disappear in Latin

The **dog** **brought** a **bone**.

Betty **baked** a **cake**.

Mary **planted** a **garden**.

Indirect Object: a noun that tells for whom or to whom something is done = DATIVE CASE in Latin

The **dog** **brought** **Bob** a **bone**.

Betty **baked** **Bob** a **cake**.

Mary **planted** **Bob** a **garden**.

Possessive Nouns: noun that expresses ownership = GENITIVE in Latin

The **dog** **brought** a **horse's** **bone**.

Betty **baked** **Grandma's** **cake**.

Mary **planted** the **neighbor's** **garden**.

Prepositional phrase: words like above, across, after, etc. preceding and modifying a noun = ACCUSATIVE or ABLATIVE. You'll have to memorize which is which.

The dog brought the bone **outside the barn**.

Betty pushed the cake **in the oven**.

Mary found a mole tunnelling **under the garden**.

Now we have 5 choices for any noun.

- **Subject (NOM)**
- **Possessive (GEN)**
- **Direct Object (ACC)**
- **Indirect Object (DATIVE)**
- **Object of a Preposition (ACC/ABL memorize)**

Let's practice in English and Latin.

1. Jenny repaired the car in Ben's garage.
2. Bob gave Annie the necklace.
3. Jill sent Jeff's postcard.
4. Annie's dog buried the bone under the house.
5. Lauren put the puppy into the bed.
6. I love Mom's dog.
7. Betty went to the store and bought Jenny's breakfast.
8. By the river, Edward fished bass.
9. Rebecca and Frankie sliced tomatoes in the kitchen.

Answers:

1. **Jenny** repaired **Ben's car** **in the garage**.
2. **Bob** gave **Annie** **the necklace**.
3. **Jill** sent **Jeff's** **postcard**.
4. **Annie's dog** buried **the bone** **under the house**.
5. **Lauren** put the **puppy** **into the bed**.
6. **Quin** loves **Mom's dog**.
7. **Betty** went **to the store** and bought **Jenny's** **breakfast**.
8. **By the river**, **Edward** cleaned **bass**.
9. **Rebecca** and **Frankie** sliced **tomatoes** **in the kitchen**.

Bit More Advanced

Here's where Latin and English part ways for a second. In English, if you use a preposition to say to whom or for whom something is done, it changes from an indirect object to a prepositional phrase.

The dog brought Bob a bone.
The dog brought a bone to Bob.

Betty baked Bob a cake.
Betty baked a cake for Bob.

Mary planted Bob a garden.
Mary planted a garden for Bob.

Isn't that super-annoying? No worries in Latin; it's still an indirect object. **Latin decides on function, not form.** Just picture the scene in your head. If someone is getting a present, it doesn't matter how you say it = DATIVE CASE.

Again, the same is true of possessives in English. If you use a preposition to say it, it changes.

The dog brought a horse's bone.
The dog brought a bone of a horse.

Betty baked Grandma's cake.
Betty baked a cake of Grandma's.

Mary planted the neighbor's garden.
Mary planted the garden of a neighbor.

Annoying! In Latin, however, it's not going to change. If there's an owner, it's GENITIVE.

Latin decides on function, not form. So, no matter what the sentence says in English, picture it in your head. If someone is OWNING, it's GENITIVE. If they're getting something given to them or done for them, it's DATIVE.

Let's do it again.....

- **Subject (NOM)**
- **Possessive (GEN)**
- **Direct Object (ACC)**
- **Indirect Object (DATIVE)**
- **Object of a Preposition (ACC/ABL memorize)**

Let's practice **in LATIN only!** Look at the **FUNCTION** of the word, not if it has a preposition or not.

1. The best of humanity went to the moon for God.
2. Bob gave Grandma's necklace to Annie.
3. Jill sent a postcard to Jeff.
4. The dog of my neighbor buried the bone of a horse under the house.
5. Lauren trained a puppy for Bob.
6. I sent the recipe of my friend to Jennifer.

Answers:

1. The **best** of humanity went to the moon for God.
2. **Bob** gave Grandma's necklace to Annie.
3. **Jill** sent a postcard to Jeff.
4. The **dog** of my neighbor buried the bone of a horse under the house.
5. **Lauren** trained a puppy for Bob.
6. I sent the recipe of my friend to Jennifer.