

How Do I Know?

Using My Model Sentences to Understand Case & Function

| DECL. | NOM <i>subject</i> | DAT <i>indirect object</i> | ACC <i>direct object</i> | VERB | TRANSLATION |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|---|
| 1 st s | ancilla | puellae | statuam | dat. | <i>The slave girl gives the statue to the girl.</i> |
| 1 st pl | ancillae | puellīs | statuās | dant. | <i>The slave girls give the statues to the girls.</i> |
| 2 nd s | dominus | servō | anulum | dābat. | <i>The master was giving the ring to the slave.</i> |
| 2 nd pl | dominī | servīs | anulōs | dābant. | <i>The masters were giving the rings to the slaves.</i> |
| 3 rd s | māter* | patrī | īnfantem | dedit. | <i>The mother gave the baby to the father.</i> |
| 3 rd pl | mātrēs | patribus | īfantēs | dedērunt. | <i>The mothers gave the babies to the fathers.</i> |

Besides by the endings, how do I know when something is NOMINATIVE?

- 1) Is *est* or a form of *est* (*erat, sunt, etc*) in the sentence?
NOM + est + NOM
(**est** takes the twin noms!)
- 2) It *agrees* with the verb (both are *singular* or *plural*).
- 3) It's the first word in the sentence and definitely NOT accusative. Confirm with an ending check.
- 4) The next word is definitely accusative, thus it must be nominative. (Confirm with an ending check.)

Besides by the endings, how do I know when something is DATIVE?

- 1) Is there a giving, showing, or offering verb in the sentence? (*dat/dedit, trādit/trādīdit, ostendit, dēmōnstrat, offert/obtulit, etc.*)
- 2) If yes, to #1, is it possibly following this sentence pattern?
Confirm with an ending check.
NOM + DAT + ACC + VERB
- 3) Is there a verb that takes a dative object? (*crēdit, favet, placet*)
Confirm with an ending check.
- 4) Is there a verb of speaking with one person speaking *to* another? (*dīcit, respondet, etc*) Confirm with an ending check.

Besides by the endings, how do I know when something is ACCUSATIVE?

- 1) In a sentence following the pattern
NOM + ACC + Verb,
it is most likely the 2nd word. Confirm with an ending check.
- 2) In a sentence following the pattern
NOM + DAT + ACC + Verb,
where the verb is a giving or showing verb, it is probably the 3rd word. Confirm with an ending check.
- 3) If the subject is understood from the previous sentence (thus no nominative), the first word may well be the accusative. Confirm with an ending check.
- 4) If you are trying to distinguish between a nominative and an accusative, if you clearly have a subject/nominative already, then it is the accusative, and vice versa.
- 5) It's the object of one of the following prepositions:
ad – *to*, **apud** – *among*, **in** (+acc) – *into*, **prope** – *near*,
per – *through*, **post** – *after/behind*