

Cases and Their Meanings

1. Nominative (प्रथमा, “1st” case) = Grammatical Subject (with which verb always agrees)
 - a) **Agent** of active voice verb
 - दासो गच्छति । “The servant goes.”
2. Accusative (द्वितीया, “2nd” case) = Grammatical Object
 - a) **Patient** of an active voice verb
 - नृपो दासं स्मरति । “The king remembers (his) servant.”
 - b) **Goal** of verb of motion
 - नृपो पर्वतं गच्छति । “The king goes to a (/the) mountain.”
 - c) Governed by the **postpositions** अनु, अन्तरा, अन्तरेण, अभितः, उभयतः, परितः, प्रति, विना, सर्वतः
 - नृपो दासम् अभितस् तिष्ठति । “The king is standing in front of the servant.” Etc.
3. Instrumental (तृतीया, “3rd” case)
 - a) **Instrument** – “by / by means of / with”
 - नृपो दासैः धनं चोरयति । “The king steals wealth *by means of* (his) servants.”
 - b) Those who are **accompanying** one – “with / along with”
 - नृपो दासेन (सह) गच्छति । “The king goes *with* (his) servant.”
 - c) **Cause** – “on account of / due to / because of”
 - दासैः नृपो दुःखं न बोधति । “*Because of* (his) servants, the king does not know misery.”
 - d) **Agent** with passive voice verb – “by”
 - ग्रामो दासेन त्यज्यते । “The village is abandoned *by* the servant.”
 - e) **Adverb of manner** – “x-ly”
 - नृपः सुखेन वसति । “The king lives *happily*.”
 - f) **With the indeclinables** विना (“without”), अलम् / कृतम् (“enough of”)
 - दासैः कृतम् । “Enough of servants.”
4. Dative (चतुर्थी, “4th” case)
 - a) **Recipient / Indirect Object** – “to”
 - नृपो दासाय कनकं यच्छति । “The king gives gold *to* the servant.”
 - b) **Purpose** of action – “for / for the sake of”
 - नृपः सुखाय वनं गच्छति । “The king goes to the forest *for* happiness.”
 - c) **Goal** of verb of motion – “to / toward”
 - नृपो वनाय गच्छति । “The king goes to the forest.”

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- With verbs and indeclinables implying a similar kind of directionality:
 - “to be angry *at*,” कुप कुप्यति (4P) – नृपो दासाय कुप्यति । “The king is angry *at* (his) servant.”
 - “to long *for*,” स्पृह स्पृहयति (10P) – नरः सुखाय स्पृहयति । “Man longs *for* happiness.”
 - “to be pleasing *to*,” रुच रोचते (1Ā) – कनकं दासाय रोचते । “Gold is pleasing *to* a servant.”
 - “salutation *to*,” नमस् – नृपाय नमः । “Salutations *to* the king.”
 - “hail *to*,” स्वस्ति – नृपाय स्वस्ति । “Hail *to* the king.”
 - “sufficient / a match *for*,” अलम् – न शृगालो गजाय अलम् । “A jackal is no match *for* an elephant.”

5. Ablative (पञ्चमी, “5th” case)

- a) **Source**, the point from which the action begins or operates – “from”
 - नृपो ग्रामात् वनं गच्छति । “The king goes *from* the village to the forest.”
- b) **Cause** or reason – “on account of, due to, because of”
 - नृपो दुःखात् दासं तुदति । “The king strikes the servant *because of* (his) misery.”
- c) Governed by the **indeclinables** प्राक्, पूर्वम् (“before, to the east of”), अनन्तरम् (“after”), आ (since, until), बहिः (“outside of”), ऋते (“except, apart from”), विना (without)
 - वनं ग्रामात् पूर्वं भवति । “The forest is east of the village.”

6. Genitive (षष्ठी, “6th” case)

- a) The **Possessor** – “(x)’s / of / belonging to”
 - अहं नृपस्य दासं पश्यामि । “I see the king’s servant.”
 - which, with the verb, “to be/exist,” = “**to have**”; i.e., X exists of Y = Y has X
 - नृपस्य कनकं भवति । “Gold exists *of* the king” = “The king *has* gold.”
- b) Governed by the **indeclinables** उपरि (“above”), अधः (“below”), पुरतः (“in front of”), पश्चात् (“behind”), परतः (“beyond”), अग्रे / समक्षम् (“in the presence of”), कृते (“for the sake of”), समीपम् (“in the vicinity of, near”)
 - चन्द्रो वृक्षस्य उपरि भवति । “The moon is above the tree.”

7. Locative (सप्तमी, “7th” case)

- a) Space / time **location** – “in, on, at, upon, throughout”
 - सो ऽश्वः कूपे पतति । “The horse falls *into* the well.”
- b) The **group** from which something is specified – “among”
 - बालेषु रामो बलवत्तमो भवति । “*Among* boys, Rāma is the strongest.”
- c) The **target/reference point** of the action – “with respect to, concerning, about, for”
 - जनकः पुत्रे वदति । “The father is speaking *about* (his) son.”
- d) The **object of affection** – “for”
 - जनकः पुत्रे स्निह्यति । “The father feels affection *for* (his) son.”