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## **THE CASES IN ENGLISH SUMMARY**

Case shows the grammatical role of a word in a sentence. In English, only pronouns have clear case forms, such as I / me / my or he / him / his. Nouns usually depend on word order to indicate their function. Traditionally, English was described with Latin terms—nominative, genitive, dative, and accusative. Modern analysis, however, recognizes only three: subject, object, and possessive. The subject marks the agent or receiver of an action, while the object covers direct, indirect, and prepositional uses. The possessive case is expressed by pronouns (my, his, ours) or by the apostrophe –s (Jon's voice). It does not only show ownership but also relationships such as kinship (my mother) or abstract ties (the love of God).

**Key words:** case, noun, pronoun, possessive, dative, common.

Linguistic typology is a branch of linguistics that classifies languages based upon the elements of their grammar and structural features. There are several “grammar types,” however, in this article, we'll mostly focus on two of them: synthetic and analytic. Analytic languages are languages that primarily convey relationships between words in sentences by way of helper words, such as particles (the infinitive to, not), prepositions (by, with, on), articles (a, an, the), etc. Another important element of analytic languages is word order, which normally tends to be fixed according to a specific pattern or a set of patterns. It's basically taking language blocks and then arranging them in certain established orders. Thanks to these fixed structures, languages like English and Mandarin have no need for grammatical case and gender, nor for a developed set of verb conjugations. If we don't, however, things come crashing down like a Jenga tower. In more practical terms, consider a sentence like the cat chases the ball. Analytic languages: In English, you know an object is in the accusative case (even if you don't actually know what the "accusative" case is) because it follows a transitive verb: the cat chases the ball. If we flip the sentence around, suddenly the chaser and chatee change: the ball chases the cat. We are constrained to word order; it's impossible to change the way these words are positioned without losing the original sentence's meaning. Synthetic languages: In languages with a case system, word order doesn't matter as much. Because the ball gets an accusative case tag and the cat gets a nominative (subject) case tag, you can arrange the sentence however you want and it still makes sense — even something like the ball the cat catches. (People still tend to employ some word

orders more than others, but unlike speakers of analytic languages, they don't have to do so.)

It is impossible to classify a language as strictly analytic or synthetic, as there is often a crossover. Analytic and synthetic are more like the extremes of a spectrum, and languages fall at different places along that spectrum. English tends to be a more analytic language, but it still does have some synthetic traits: I run vs he runs. Despite the simplicity and an overall semantic precision of analytic languages (stricter word order means simple words carry more weight in a sentence, which means that “finer” synonyms have to emerge to convey specific nuances), they allow for less creative freedom than their synthetic counterparts. As many words as you know, you're still bound to basic word order rules. Many languages of the world depend on a structural feature that it might never have been heard of: a grammatical case system. If it's being learnt such a language, learning it well is important, because even seemingly small mistakes can change the entire meaning of a sentence or cause it to be completely incomprehensible. Despite the significance of the case system for many languages, it is not present in English. As a result, simply explaining what grammatical cases are and why they are so important is a surprisingly difficult endeavor that requires quite a bit of dedicated class time; that's what our teaching experience tells us, at least. In this article, we'll explore what a grammatical case system is, what sort of cases exist, and why they are all but absent in English. Without further ado, let's get started. As in Latin, so in English "case" refers to a change in the form of a word which indicates how that word is used in a sentence, that is, how it relates syntactically to other words in the sentence. In English, the only words that are marked formally are pronouns and the "declension" of pronouns shows three cases: The subject case, the object case, and the possessive case. Examples: "I, me, my/mine" and "she, her, her/hers." Other words distinguish their syntactic usage within a sentence by their word position. Examples: "Man ate an apple" and "Henry gave Sam Mary." [1].

Although, English Cases are often taught by their Latin names. It is agreed that there is no "Ablative" in English (although there is an "Instrumental Case") but English grammars often keep the Dative in addition to the Accusative, so creating the following four cases: Nominative, Genitive, Dative, Accusative. However, the Dative case is really indistinguishable from the accusative case: "Mom gave him the cake" ("him" is Dative) or "She saw him." ("him" is Accusative). (See how the loss of a distinct dative affects English verbs.) As a result, it seems to us more accurate to speak of the cases in English as: subject, object (including direct object, indirect object, and object of the preposition), and possessive cases [3, p.328].

The nominative case is the case for the subject of the sentence. The subject is the person or thing about which the predicate makes a statement, and the name, "nominative," means "pertaining to the person or thing designated." Thus, you could

say "Alice saw Jan" and the subject would be "Alice," the person designated as the actor in the sentence; but, if you said "Alice was seen by Jan," "Alice" would still be the subject, but this time designated as the one "acted upon." In Latin the subject does not always need to be expressed because it can be indicated by the person and number of the verb [4]. "They praise" = *laudant*. See the subject case in English, which is similar to the Latin nominative case. You may want to think about what case is in Latin (and in other languages); some general observations can be found here. If the verb that makes the statement (the predicate) is active, then the subject (the subject of the verb) is the person or thing that is doing something: "She came. She saw. She conquered." If the verb that makes the statement is passive, then the subject is the person or thing that is affected by the action: "The Helvetii were conquered by Caesar; Caesar was killed by Brutus. In English, the object case is primarily used to express three syntactical relationships: 1. direct object, 2. indirect object, and 3. object of prepositions. In Latin these functions are expressed by 1. the Accusative Case, 2. the Dative Case and 3. the Ablative or Accusative case (depending on the preposition). The direct object is the person or thing directly affected by the action of an active verb. "He drove the car." The action is "driving" and the thing directly affected is "the car." NOTE: Whenever a verb has a direct object it is called a transitive verb. Not all verbs are transitive, but consider the following: "I went quickly." Here, going is an activity by itself; it does not affect any other person or thing. The verb is intransitive. Intransitive verbs do not have direct objects. However, the same verb with a different meaning can be transitive: "I go the store when my father is away." Since "go" now has a direct object, it is considered a transitive verb. Here is another example: "I gave away the book." Here, "the book" is directly affected by the giving and so it is the direct object. In Latin, the direct object is always put in the accusative case. Readers of Latin distinguish the direct object from the indirect object. The indirect object is the person or thing indirectly affected by the action of the verb. Consider a variation on the last sentence above: "I gave him the book." (Or, the same thing: "I gave the book to him.") "The book" is still the direct object (directly affected by the "giving"), but we have added a person indirectly affected by the giving: "him." "Him" is the indirect object. In this case, it is the beneficiary of the giving. Suppose on the other hand, the person indirectly affected was hurt by the action: "I gave him the finger." Here we have the indirect object used to describe the person disadvantaged by the giving. In Latin, the indirect object is always put into the dative case, but the Latin Dative Case has greater flexibility and more functions than the indirect object function in English. The possessive case only really exists in English in the personal pronouns: my, mine; your, yours; his, her, hers, its; our, ours, your, yours, and their, theirs. These are truly inflected possessive forms. Elsewhere we use "apostrophe s" ['s] to mark the "possessive case." Historically this is just a contraction of "his" as in "Shakespeare

his wife was born in Stratford" becoming "Shakespeare's wife...." In English this case is used almost exclusively for possession: "my book" or "his house"; or for relationships that are like possession: "our lesson" and "their god." [2]. One should be careful, however, not to think that the possessive case only indicates material or legal possession. Originally it was as flexible as the genitive case in Latin, and as a result may still in English indicate relationships that are more subtle or complex than ownership. Consider: "my mother" ... surely, I don't own her in any literal way. Similarly, "my love" or "my friend." These are not "ownership" relationships (or so we hope -- as always, grammar is not precise about content). The potential complexity of these "possessive" relationships may become clear if you consider that the alternative form for "possession" in English uses the preposition "of" -- "the country of the Helvetii" or "the leader of the Catholics." This preposition is actually very similar to the Latin genitive case in the way that it can express a number of different types of relationships. Here are a few to think about: The Driver of the Bus; The love of God; My love of God; Rivers of milk and honey. The possessive case is most familiar to English speakers as the case that expresses possession: "my hat" or "Harry's house." In Latin it is used to indicate any number of relationships that are most frequently and easily translated into English by the preposition "of": "love of god", "the girl of that woman" the "state of the union," "the son of god." In all these examples, the prepositional phrase modifies a noun; that is, the prepositional phrase acts like an adjective: "love of god" = "god's love" = "divine love". The last example shows the "genetic" relationship that gives the genitive case its name. Linguists who have studied this case have concluded that it is a convenient way of indicating relationships between nouns, or, put in more grammatical terms, the genitive case turns any noun into an adjective. How do we do that in English? Consider: there are big houses, red houses, houses in the country, and a house that belongs to Harry. In these four examples "big" and "red" are familiar adjectives; but, if you think about it, "in the country" and "that belongs to Harry" are also expressions that "modify" or "define" the nouns they are attached to. In Latin, you would use the possessive case for "Harry" and for "country" if you wanted to define the houses in this way. Some other examples include: "the road to Rome" = *via Romae*, "rivers of milk" = *flumina lactis*, and "part of the men" = *pars virorum* [5, p.171-174].

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## İNGİLİS DİLİNDƏ HALLAR XÜLASƏ

Hal sözün cümlədəki qrammatik rolunu göstərir. İngilis dilində yalnız əvəzliliklərin aydın hal formaları var, məsələn, I / me / my və ya he / him / his. İsimlərin öz funksiyalarını göstərmələri söz sırasından asılıdır. Ənənəvi olaraq ingilis dili latın terminləri ilə təsvir olunurdu - nominativ, genitive, dativ və accusative. Müasir təhlil isə yalnız üç formanı tanıyır: subyekt, obyekt və sahiblik. Mövzu hərəkətin agentini və ya qəbulunu qeyd edir, obyekt isə birbaşa, dolayı və sözünü istifadələrini əhatə edir. O, yiyəlik hal əvəzlilikləri (mənim, onun, bizim) və ya apostrof –s (Jonun səsi) ilə ifadə edilir. Bu, təkcə sahibliyi deyil, həm də qohumluq (anam) və ya mücərrəd bağlar (Allah sevgisi) kimi əlaqələri göstərir.

**Açar sözlər:** hal, isim, əvəzlilik, yiyəlik, yönlük, adlıq.

**З. Б. НАГИЗАДЕ**

## ДЕЛА НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ РЕЗЮМЕ

Падеж показывает грамматическую роль слова в предложении. В английском языке только местоимения имеют четкие падежные формы, например, я / меня / мой или он / его / его / его. Существительные обычно зависят от порядка слов, чтобы определить свою функцию. Традиционно английский язык описывался латинскими терминами — именительным, родительным, дательным и винительным. Однако современный анализ выделяет только три: подлежащее, дополнение и притяжательный падеж. Подлежащее обозначает агента или получателя действия, в то время как дополнение охватывает прямое, косвенное и предложное использование. Притяжательный падеж выражается местоимениями (my, his, ours) или апострофом –s (голос Джона). Он выражает не только принадлежность, но и такие отношения, как родство (моя мать) или абстрактные связи (любовь к Богу).

**Ключевые слова:** падеж, существительное, местоимение, притяжательный, дательный, нарицательный.

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