

The Accusative Case

Substantival Uses	Direct object		translation varies	Indicates the immediate object of the action of a transitive verb. <i>By far the most common use of the accusative.</i>
			Matt 5:46 ἐὰν ἀγαπήσητε τοὺς ἀγαπῶντας ὑμᾶς “If you love <i>those who love you</i> ”	
	Double Accusative	Person—Thing	translation varies	Certain verbs take two objects, both of which appear in the accusative case, but which stand in distinct relationships to the action of the verb. One is the <i>person affected</i> by the action, the other is the <i>thing involved in performing</i> the action.
		John 14:26 ἐκεῖνος ὑμᾶς διδάξει πάντα He will teach you [person] all things [thing].”		
		Object—Complement	translation varies	Other verbs take two accusative objects, but the relationship of those two objects is different. In these cases one is the straightforward <i>direct object</i> of the verb, while the other is a <i>complement</i> which tells us something about that object.
		Rom 3:25 ὃν προέθετο ὁ θεὸς ἱλαστήριον “ whom [obj] God put forward as an atonement [comp]”		
		Matt 22:43 Δαυὶδ ἐν πνεύματι καλεῖ αὐτὸν κύριον “In the Spirit, David calls him [obj] Lord [comp].”		
Subject of infinitive		translation varies	Often the subject of an infinitive verb will appear in the accusative case. Sometimes the infinitive will also take an accusative direct object. In these cases one must distinguish between subject and object simply on the basis of sense.	
		Luke 2:27 ἐν τῷ εἰσαγαγεῖν τοὺς γονεῖς τὸ παιδίον “When the parents brought in the child”		
Adverbial Uses	Adverbial (Manner)	translation varies	The accusative acts like an adverb, describing the quality or character of a verbal action.	
		Matt 10:8 δωρεὰν ἐλάβετε, δωρεὰν δότε “You received freely ; give freely .”		
	Measure (Extent of space/time)	“for the extent of ...” “for the duration of ...”	The accusative acts like an adverb again, but this time identifies the extent or duration of the action. Answers the questions “how far?” or “how long?”	
		John 6:19 ἐληλακότες . . . ὡς σταδίους ἑκοσι πέντε ἢ τριάκοντα “. . . when they had rowed about twenty-five or thirty yards .”		
Respect or (general) reference	“with reference to ...” “concerning ...”	The accusative identifies the sphere, subject, or point of reference within which the verbal action is said to take place. <i>Rare in the NT.</i>		
	Rom 10:5 Μωσῆς γὰρ γράφει τὴν δικαιοσύνην τὴν ἐκ τοῦ νόμου “for Moses writes [this] concerning the righteousness based on the law.”			