

The Genitive

Basic Sense: Gives more information about a noun.

First Translation: Put the genitive noun in front of the noun it modifies
(πίστις Χριστοῦ = “Christ faith”)

What is the genitive noun telling me about the lead noun?

Adjectival	Descriptive (XX)	“characterized by” “described by”	A “catch-all” category for the loose relationships between a Genitive noun and its lead noun which don’t fall easily into the other categories.
		2 Cor 6:2 ἐν ἡμέρᾳ σωτηρίας “In the day of salvation ”	
	Possession	“belonging to” “possessed by” “his/her/its”	The sense of ownership can be loose (e.g., “my Lord”).
		Matt 26:51 αὐτοῦ τὸ ὠτίον “ His ear ”	
	Relationship	“descended from” “begotten by”	Sometimes modifies a noun describing a relationship (e.g. “Son <i>of Jacob</i> ”). Sometimes modifies person’s name directly (e.g., “Simon [son] <i>of John</i> ”).
		Luke 24:10 Μαρία ἡ Ἰακώβου “Mary, [the mother] of James ”	
	Partitive	“which/who is a part of” “which/who is one of” “which/who is among”	The gen. noun identifies a group or category. The lead noun identifies a member or part of that group or category.
		Rom 15:26 τοὺς πτωχοὺς τῶν ἁγίων “The poor who are among the saints ”	
	Attributive	<i>translation varies</i>	The gen. noun identifies an attribute or quality of the lead noun. You can usually translate by turning the gen. noun into an adjective (e.g. “body of sin” = “sinful body”)
		Rom 8:21 τὴν ἐλευθερίαν τῆς δόξης “The glorious freedom ”	
	Material	“made of” “consisting of”	The gen. noun identifies the material out of which the lead noun is made.
		Rev 18:12 γόμον χρυσοῦ “Cargo consisting of gold ”	
	Content	“full of” “containing”	The gen. noun identifies the contents of the lead noun. Can also follow a verb, indicating the substance being used in the verbal action (trans. “with”).
		John 21:8 τὸ δίκτυον τῶν ἰχθύων “The net containing fish ” Acts 2:4 ἐπλήσθησαν πνεύματος ἁγίου “They were filled with the H.S. ”	
Epexegetical (Appositional)	“that is” “which is”	The gen. noun points to the same object as the lead noun, using a different word which tells us more about it.	
	John 2:21 ὁ ναὸς τοῦ σώματος αὐτοῦ “The temple, which is his body ”		

Ablative	Source (Origin)	“derived from” “dependent on”	The gen. noun identifies the source or origin of the lead noun
		Rom 10:3 τὴν τοῦ θεοῦ δικαιοσύνην “The righteousness which comes from God ”	
Ablative	Comparison	“than”	The gen. usually comes after a comparative adjective and identifies the standard against which the lead noun is being compared.
		Matt 6:25 οὐχὶ ἡ ψυχὴ πλεῖον ἔστιν τῆς τροφῆς ; “Is your life not worth more than food ?”	
Verbal	Subjective	<i>translations vary</i>	The gen. noun identifies the subject of the action in a verbal noun.
		Matt 24:27 ἡ παρουσία τοῦ υἱοῦ “The coming of the Son ”	
	Objective	<i>translations vary</i>	The gen. noun identifies the direct object of the action in a verbal noun.
		Matt 12:31 ἡ τοῦ πνεύματος βλασφημία “Blaspheming the spirit ”	
	Plenary (XX)	<i>translations vary</i>	The gen. noun identifies a quality or aspect of the action in a verbal noun in a more vague way. This relationship might include <i>both</i> the idea of the gen. noun as subject <i>and</i> the idea of the gen. noun as direct object.
	2 Cor 5:14 ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ Χριστοῦ “ Christ love” May here be the love which Christ shows us and which we then show toward others.		
Adverbial	Time	“within which” “during which”	The gen. noun here modifies a verb, identifying the time of the action.
		John 3:2 ἦλθεν πρὸς αὐτὸν νυκτός “He came to him during the night ”	
	Means	“by” “by means of”	The gen. noun modifies a verb or verbal noun, identifying the means by which the action is carried out.
		Jas 1:13 ἀπείραστός ἐστιν κακῶν “He is not tempted by evil .”	
	Agency		
	Genitive Absolute	<i>translations vary</i>	When a participial clause 1) opens a sentence and 2) has a subject different from the subject of the main clause, then the participle and its subject (if identified) will appear in the genitive.

Semantically empty reasons for using genitive:

- A noun or adjective in apposition to a word in the genitive must also be in the genitive;
- Certain verbs (esp. sensation, emotion, sharing, ruling) take their direct objects in the genitive case;
- Certain prepositions are always followed by the genitive case.