



## A Case of Grammar

By [Steve Chrisomalis](#)

For those of you who have never studied Latin, or German, or a host of other languages known as inflected languages, grammatical cases are noun and pronoun inflections which indicate the relationship of terms in a sentence to one another. In English, cases are now only important to indicate possession (cat/cat's, it/its) and in pronouns (she/her, who/whom). However, some languages have up to fifteen cases. You just might want to have this list on hand if you ever take a trip to Finland, for instance. Or then again, maybe not. At any rate, while most non-linguists are familiar with only a handful of these cases at most, there are in fact over fifty distinct cases that I have been able to track down.

<b>Word</b>	<b>Definition</b>
abessive	indicating absence or lack
ablative	indicating direction from or time when
absolutive	indicating subject or object of intransitive verb
accusative	indicating direct object of a verb
adessive	indicating place where or proximity to
adnominal	indicating adjective used as a noun
agentive	indicating agent performing an action
allative	indicating movement towards
associative	indicating association with or accompaniment by
benefactive	indicating for whom or which
caritive	indicating lack of something
causative	indicating causation by
comitative	indicating accompaniment
compellative	indicating address or appellation; vocative
conformative	indicating resemblance; similitive
dative	indicating indirect object of a verb
delative	indicating motion downward
distributive	indicating separate members of a group, one at a time
elative	indicating movement out of or away from
equative	indicating likeness or identity
ergative	indicating subject of a transitive verb
essive	indicating a temporary state of being
factive	indicating causation
genitive	indicating possession, origin or relation
illative	indicating movement into or toward
inessive	indicating location within
instructive	indicating means whereby
instrumental	indicating means by which
introessive	indicating motion into
juxtapositive	indicating juxtaposition
lative	indicating motion up to or as far as
locative	indicating location or place where
multiplicative	indicating repetition or augmentation
mutative	indicating a change of place or state
nominative	indicating subject of a verb

oppositive	indicating opposition or location opposite to
partitive	indicating a part of a larger whole
perlative	indicating movement through or across
possessive	indicating possession; genitive case
predicative	indicating the predicate
privative	indicating absence, deprivation or negation
prolative	indicating motion alongside or means of motion
relative	indicating relation or a prepositional object
similative	indicating similarity to
situative	indicating comparison of two things
sociative	indicating association with the subject
stative	indicating a state rather than an action
subessive	indicating location under or below
sublative	indicating movement towards the top of
superessive	indicating location upon or on top of
temporal	indicating time when
terminative	indicating motion up to or time until
translative	indicating process of change or movement through
vocative	indicating calling or personal address

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