

Introduction

The Dative Case:

“Dative” comes from the Latin verb “dō, dare” “to give.” The Dative case is the “giving case.” This case used to indicate who is given something (or shown something, or told something, etc.). It is the case used for the Indirect Object, which is almost always a person.

For example:

Iulius gives an apple **to Marcus**

Iulius = nominative, subject of the verb

apple = accusative, direct object (the thing which is given)

to Marcus = dative, indirect object (the person who is given something)

In English, the indirect object (dative) usually has the preposition “to” or “for” in front of it
BUT

If you put the indirect object immediately after the verb, you cannot have a preposition in English:

Iulius gives an apple to Marcus.

is the same as

Iulius gives Marcus an apple.

(You cannot say in good English “Iulius gives to Marcus an apple.”)

In Latin, the dative is shown by **declensional endings**.

masculine singular = -ō

feminine singular = -ae

masculine and feminine plural = -īs

Iulius dat mālum Marcō.

Iulius dat mālum Iuliae.

Iulius dat mālum servīs.

Iulius dat mālum ancillīs.

Like all short Latin sentences, these can be written in any order and the meaning will not change

Iulius Marcō dat mālum. = Iulius gives an apple to Marcus.

Iulius Marcō mālum dat. = Iulius gives an apple to Marcus.

Marcō Iulius dat mālum. = Iulius gives an apple to Marcus.

Mālum Iulius dat Marcō. = Iulius gives an apple to Marcus.

Mālum Iulius dat Marcō. = Iulius gives an apple to Marcus.

as long as the endings are the same = Iulius gives an apple to Marcus.

In addition to the verb “dō, dare,” the dative case is also used with verbs that mean things like “show,” “tell,” “indicate.” We will learn lots of these

EXERCISE:

For each of the following sentences:

- a. **CIRCLE** which word is in the dative case
- b. **translate** the sentence

E.g., Iulius dat rosam Quintō. *Quinto* = dative. “Iulius gives a rose to Qunitus.”

1. Dāvus dat pecūniam Syrae.
2. Mēdus dat rosās Lȳdiae.
3. Mārcus Quīntō aquam dat.
4. Syra lūliae speculum dat.
5. Aemilia māla lūliō dat.
6. Syrō Leander saccum dat.
7. Cornēlius puellīs librum dat.
8. Aemilia puerīs equum dat.
9. Iūlius Dāvō pirum dat.
10. Ursus Dēliae rosam dat.