

Grammatical Case

Languages

What case marking does, and why English mostly lost it.

The common cases, with what each typically marks.

Case	Marks	English trace
Nominative	The subject	he, she, they
Accusative	Direct object	him, her, them
Dative	Indirect object	(merged with accusative)
Genitive	Possession	's and of
Instrumental	By means of	(uses 'with')
Locative	Location	(uses 'in', 'at')

English retains case only on pronouns: he/him/his. Finnish has fifteen cases; Hungarian has eighteen.