

by itself

<b>NOM.</b> (subject of verb)	names subject of verb → αἱ χελῶναι ταῖς γλώτταις ἐσθίουσιν. describes subject → ἡ ἀδελφή μου σοφὴ ἐστίν.
<b>ACC.</b> (defines the extent of impact)	direct object → φιλεῖ τοὺς μύθους. extent of time (=duration) or space → τρέχει (runs) πέντε στάδια (τὸ στάδιον, unit of length) → πέντε ἡμέρας (days) ἦν ἐν τῷ ἀγρῷ. → νοσῶ τὴν γλῶτταν.
<b>GEN.</b> (“of” or separation/ comparison)	possession (“of”) → ἡ χελῶνη τῆς ἀδελφῆς σοφὴ ἐστίν. → ἡ τῆς ἀδελφῆς χελῶνη σοφὴ ἐστίν. (alt. word order) partitive (“of”): specifying the whole/larger group → οἱ πολλοὶ (the many/majority) τῶν ἀνθρώπων... When in doubt, try “of”...
<b>DAT.</b> (indirect impact; means/ manner; or locative)	indirect object (“to,” “for,” or Engl. indirect object) → δείκνυσι τῷ ἀδελφῷ τὸ βιβλίον. dative of means/instrument → αἱ χελῶναι ταῖς γλώτταις ἐσθίουσιν. manner → ταῦτα σπουδῇ ποιεῖ. (ἡ σπουδῆ, “haste, zeal”) time when → ἡμέρᾳ τινὶ ὁ Νασιρέδδινος πεινῆ.

with certain words or constructions

end of motion/place to which: object of prepositions → εἰς τὸν ἀγρὸν ἔρχεται. (εἰς “into”) → πρὸς τὸν ἀγρὸν ἔρχεται. (πρὸς “towards”)
extent of time or space: object of prepositions: → τρέχει κατὰ τὸν ποταμὸν. (κατὰ “along”) also oaths with νή → νὴ τὸν Δία γλῶτταν ἔχεις.
separation/place from which: object of prepositions → ἔρχεται ἐκ τοῦ ἀγροῦ. (ἐκ) comparison (“than”): with a comparative word → τοῦτό ἐστι χαλεπώτερον πάντων. with some verbs (ex.: the action only affects part) → πίνω τοῦ οἴνου. → not predictable (e.g. “rule” + gen.)
dative of the possessor: with the verb “to be” → ταῦτα τὰ βιβλία τῇ ἀδελφῇ ἐστίν. with some verbs (often English uses preposition) → ὀργίζομαι αὐτοῖς. (angry “at”) → χαίρω τοῖς μύθοις. (take joy “in”) → not predictable (learned as part of vocab)
place where: object of prepositions → κεῖται ἐν τῷ ἀγρῷ. (ἐν)