

# LESSON 39

## Genitive Case 2

### 39.1. Introduction

This Lesson deals with Genitive constructions which are used with verbs, adjectives and adverbs. The function of such phrases is similar to that of an adverb; hence, they are sometimes called ‘adverbial’ Genitives. Some of the basically Possessive functions (including Partitive), which were treated in Lesson 38, may also be used predicatively with verbs. In addition, the Genitive of Separation (or Ablatival Gen.) includes a number of other particular functions.

### 39.2. Possessive Genitive

#### 39.2.1. Complement and Equivalent of Predicate Nominative

The simple Possessive Genitive may be used predicatively as Complement of verbs meaning ‘to be’, ‘to become’, ‘to seem’; and, as the equivalent of a predicate Nominative, with the Passive of verbs (whose Act. may take a predicate Acc.), such as ‘to be called’, ‘to be considered’. (Cf. Lesson 36.2 and Lesson 36.3.)

... καὶ ἐγένετο Μεσσήνη **Λοκρῶν** τινα χρόνον. (Th. 5.5.1.)  
... and Messene became <the possession> **of the Locrians** for some time.

Complement of ἐγένετο.

τίς δ' ἔσθ' ὁ χώρος; **τοῦ** θεῶν νομίζεται; (S.OC 38.)  
And which is the place? **To which** of the gods is it regarded <as belonging>?

Equivalent of predicative Nominative, with the Passive verb νομίζεται.

### 39.2.2. Complement to an Infinitive Subject

The simple Possessive Genitive may be used predicatively as Complement of the verb ‘to be’, where the Subject is an Infinitive phrase. This idiom expresses the idea: ‘It is the nature/responsibility/habit etc. *of someone* to do something’. (Grammatically: ‘To do something is <the nature etc.> of someone’.)

καίτοι τό γ’ αἰνιγμ’ οὐχὶ **τοῦπίοντος** ἦν  
**ἀνδρὸς** διειπεῖν, ἀλλὰ μαντείας ἔδει. (S.OT 393–394.)

*And yet it was not <the responsibility> of any man who came along to expound the riddle, but there was need of prophecy.*

### 39.2.3. Equivalent of Predicative Accusative

The simple Possessive Genitive may be used with the Active of verbs meaning ‘to think’, ‘to make’, ‘to appoint’, etc. as the equivalent of a predicative Accusative. (Cf. Lesson 37.1.2.)

ὁ δέ μιν προσιδὼν ἀντείρετο εἰ **ἑωυτοῦ** ποιέεται τὸ Κύρου ἔργον.  
(Hdt. 1.129.2.)

*And he, looking at him, asked in turn whether he regarded the action of Cyrus as his own.*

### 39.2.4. Genitive of Material

The Genitive of Material may modify a verb and indicate what something is made of. The Genitive may be a Complement of the verb ‘to be’ or the equivalent of a predicative Accusative with verbs such as ‘to make’. (Cf. Lessons 36.2 and 37.1.2.)

... συγκειμένου σφι **πωρίνου λίθου** ποιέειν τὸν νηόν, **Παρίου** τὰ ἔμπροσθε αὐτοῦ ἔξεποίησαν. (Hdt. 5.62.3.)

*... although it had been agreed for them to make the temple of limestone, they made the front of it of Parian <marble>.*

(The adj. *πωρίνου* may alternatively refer to tufa.)

### 39.2.5. Genitive of Measure

The Genitive of Measure may be used as Complement of the verb ‘to be’. (Cf. Lesson 36.2.)

ξυνέβησάν τε πρῶτα μὲν τὰ μακρὰ τεῖχῃ ἐλεῖν Ἀθηναίους (ἦν δὲ **σταδίων** μάλιστα **ὀκτώ** ἀπὸ τῆς πόλεως ἐπὶ τὴν Νίσαιαν τὸν λιμένα αὐτῶν), ... (Th. 4.66.3.)

*And they agreed that first the Athenians should take the long walls (and they were **of approximately eight stades** <in length> from the city to Nisaea their harbour), ...*

### 39.2.6. Genitive of Price or Value

The Genitive of Price or Value may be used adverbially with appropriate verbs (such as ‘to buy’, ‘to value’) and with adjectives (such as ἄξιος, ‘worth’, ‘worthy of’).

κατεγγυῶντος γὰρ Μενεξένου πρὸς τὸν πολέμαρχον τὸν παῖδα, Πασίων αὐτὸν **ἑπτὰ τάλαντων** διηγγυήσατο. (Isoc. 17.14.)

*For when Menexenus required Pasion to give security before the polemarch for the slave, he provided security for him <to the amount> **of seven talents**.*

## 39.3. Partitive Genitive

As noted in Lesson 38 and in §39.1 above, the Partitive Genitive is properly a subcategory of the Possessive Genitive. The part ‘belongs to’ the whole.

### 39.3.1. Complement of the Verb ‘to be’

The simple Partitive Genitive may form the Complement of verbs such as ‘to be’ or ‘to become’.

καὶ εἰς οἴκημα οὐ μέγα ὃ ἦν **τοῦ ἱεροῦ** ἐσελθὼν, ἵνα μὴ ὑπαίθριος τάλαιπωροίη, ἡσύχαζεν. (Th. 1.134.1.)

*And entering a small room which was <part> **of the temple**, so that he might not suffer from exposure, he kept quiet.*

### 39.3.2. With Verbs Meaning ‘to have or give a share of’

The simple Partitive Genitive may function as the Object of verbs meaning ‘to have or give a share of’. This construction is analogous to the basic use of the Partitive Genitive with nouns. In the adnominal phrase ‘one of the citizens’, ‘one’ is the part and ‘of the citizens’ denotes the whole group (Gen. in Greek). So, in the present example, ‘to have a share’ or ‘to take part’ (μετέχειν) is followed by a Genitive phrase denoting the whole group of actions.

... Φείδων αἰρεθεὶς ὑμᾶς διαλλάξαι καὶ καταγαγεῖν **τῶν αὐτῶν ἔργων** Ἐρατοσθένει μετείχε ... (Lys. 12.58.)

... *Phidon, having been chosen to reconcile you and bring you back, participated in the same actions as Eratosthenes ...*

### 39.3.3. With Verbs of Perception

Verbs of perception may take a Genitive. For example, the common construction with verbs of hearing is Accusative of the sound, voice, etc. and/or Genitive of the person making the sound or possessing the voice. The sound, voice, etc. is part of the person or of the person’s activity.

... εἰκὸς ὑμᾶς καὶ **τῶν κατηγορῶν** ἀκροᾶσθαι ... (Lys. 14.24.)  
 ... *<it is> reasonable that you should listen also to accusers ...*

The article τῶν is used generically.

### 39.3.4. Equivalent to a Direct Object

Sometimes a verb, which otherwise takes a direct Object in the Accusative, may take a Partitive Genitive equivalent to a direct Object. (Cf. Lesson 37.1.1.)

... λέγει ὅτι ... ποιήσει ὥστε μήτε **τῶν τειχῶν** διελεῖν μήτε ἄλλο τὴν πόλιν ἐλαττώσαι μηδέν· (Lys. 13.9.)

... *he said that ... he would see to it that neither <would any one> take down <part> of the walls, nor <would> anything else diminish <the standing of> the city.*

λέγει is Historic Present. The Subject of the Infinitive διελεῖν is not explicit.

### 39.3.5. Genitive of Limits of Time

The Genitive of Limits of Time is a Partitive Genitive—an action takes place for only part of the time specified by the Genitive phrase.

... ᾠοντο **ὀλίγων ἐτῶν** καθαιρήσειν τὴν τῶν Ἀθηναίων δύναμιν  
... (Th. 5.14.3.)

... *they thought that **within a few years** they would demolish the power of the Athenians ...*

**ἔτεος** δὲ **ἐκάστου** ἀμάξας πεντήκοντα καὶ ἑκατὸν ἐπιπέουσι  
φρυγάνων· (Hdt. 4.62.2.)

*And [within] **each year** they pile on one hundred and fifty wagon-loads of sticks.*

The Genitive of Limits of Time is commonly used to express frequency.

### 39.3.6. Genitive of Limits of Space

Similarly, the Genitive of Limits of Space is a Partitive Genitive—an action takes place with reference only to part of the space specified by the Genitive phrase.

θαυμάζω δέ, ὦ ἄνδρες δικασταί, εἴ τις ἀξιοῖ, ἐὰν μὲν τις  
προσιόντων τῶν πολεμίων **τῆς πρώτης τάξεως** τεταγμένος  
**τῆς δευτέρας** γένηται, τούτου μὲν δειλίαν καταψηφίζεσθαι, ἐὰν  
δέ τις ἐν τοῖς ὀπίταις τεταγμένος ἐν τοῖς ἵππεύσιν ἀναφανῆ,  
τούτῳ συγγνώμην ἔχειν. (Lys. 14.11.)

*And I am surprised, O men of the jury, that anyone thinks it right, if, as the enemy approaches, someone placed **in the first rank** turns up **in the second rank**, to vote this <man> guilty of cowardice, but if someone placed among the infantry appears among the cavalry, to grant pardon to this <man>.*

The construction with ἐν + Dat. (ἐν τοῖς ὀπίταις, ἐν τοῖς ἵππεύσιν) is practically equivalent in meaning to the Genitive construction.

### 39.3.7. Other Partitive Constructions

The Genitive used with many other verbs (and related adjectives or adverbs) is usually classed as Partitive. The following selected examples show that this classification is not always satisfactory.

In the expressions ‘to fill something with water’ (verb) or to be ‘full of water’ (adj.), ‘water’ regularly appears in the Genitive Case in Greek. The ‘Partitive’ rationale for this construction is that only some water (not all) is needed for the filling.

ἄλλ’ ἐπάμυνε τάχιστα, καὶ ἐμπίμπληθι ῥέεθρα  
**ὔδατος** ἐκ πηγέων, ... (Hom.*Il.* 21.311–312.)

*Come, bring assistance very quickly, and fill your streams  
 with water from your springs, ...*

River Scamander addresses River Simois.

ταφρὸς μὲν πρῶτά μιν βαθέα τε καὶ εὐρέα καὶ πλῆη **ὔδατος**  
 περιθέει, ... (Hdt. 1.178.3.)

*First a moat runs round it [= Babylon], deep and broad and full of water, ...*

It is not so clear that a Partitive explanation can be applied to the group of verbs meaning ‘to remember, to forget; to care for, to neglect’.

... σὺ δέ, ὦ Νικόμαχε, ... μόνῳ σοὶ τῶν πολιτῶν ἐξεῖναι νομίζεις  
 ἄρχειν πολὺν χρόνον, καὶ μήτε εὐθύνας διδόναι μήτε τοῖς  
 ψηφίσμασι πείθεσθαι μήτε **τῶν νόμων** φροντίζειν ... (Lys. 30.5.)

*... but you, O Nicomachus ... think that it is permissible for you alone of the  
 citizens to hold office for a long time, and neither to submit to an examination,  
 nor to obey the decrees, nor to take notice of the laws ...*

φροντίζειν may take a direct Object in the Accusative when it means ‘to consider’. When this verb takes a Genitive, it is most often negated and has the sense ‘not to worry about’. And from Herodotus onwards, the Genitive may be used with the preposition περί. But it can hardly be said that Nicomachus is ‘not worried about’ *only some* of the laws. Thus, a Partitive explanation for the construction seems inadequate. Indeed, a Causal explanation seems more plausible: Nicomachus is ‘not worried’ *because of* the laws. The Causal Genitive is basically a Genitive of Separation (see §39.4.3 below).

The Genitive with adjectives, which are compounded with the negative prefix ἀ-, is usually classed as Partitive.

νέος μὲν καὶ ἄπειρος δικῶν ἔγωγε ἔτι, ... (Antipho 1.1.)  
*For my part <I am> still young and **without experience of lawsuits**, ...*

Here, the speaker may be regarded as inexperienced ‘within the sphere’ of lawsuits, in a construction analogous to the Genitive of Limits of Time or Space.

## 39.4. Genitive of Separation

The Genitive of Separation is used with a wide range of verbs, adjectives and adverbs.

### 39.4.1. Simple Genitive of Separation

Most simply, the Genitive of Separation is used with verbs meaning ‘to be distant from’, ‘to separate someone (Acc.) from something (Gen.)’ or ‘to deprive someone (Acc.) of something (Gen.)’.

καὶ νοσφιεῖς με τοῦδε δευτέρου νεκροῦ; (E.Alc. 43.)  
*And will you deprive me **of this second corpse**?*

### 39.4.2. Genitive of Comparison

The Genitive of Comparison is a particular type of Genitive of Separation.

#### 39.4.2.1. With Comparative Adjectives

The Comparative adjective qualifies the person or thing being compared; the Genitive indicates the standard of comparison. The idea of ‘separation’ is involved, in that some people may be, for example, more or less numerous or strong in ‘departing from’ the standard of others.

οὔτοι δὲ τὸ πλῆθος μὲν οὐκ ἐλάσσονες ἦσαν τῶν Περσέων, ῥώμη δὲ ἥσσονες. (Hdt. 8.113.3.)

*These were not less in number **than the Persians**, but were inferior in strength.*

### 39.4.2.2. With Verbs Denoting Difference

εἶτ' ἐμὴν ἀψυχίαν  
λέγεις, **γυναικός**, ὧ κάκισθ', ἤσσημένος,  
ἦ τοῦ καλοῦ σοῦ προὔθανεν νεανίου; (E.*Alc.* 696–698.)

*Then do you speak of my  
faintheartedness, O <you> scoundrel, having become inferior to your wife,  
who died for you, her fine young man?*

### 39.4.3. Genitive of Cause

The Genitive of Cause is also a particular type of Genitive of Separation.

#### 39.4.3.1. With Verbs of Emotion

The Genitive denotes Cause with verbs of emotion, such as 'to be surprised at' or 'to blame someone (Dat.) for something (Gen.)'. The idea of 'separation' is involved, in that the emotion 'arises from' the thing or person specified in the Genitive.

**τιμῆς** ἐμέμφθη σωφρονοῦντι δ' ἤχθετο. (E.*Hipp.* 1402.)  
*She [= Aphrodite] complained of the honour <which you did not show her>  
and got annoyed with <you> for being restrained.*

#### 39.4.3.2. In Exclamations

The following exclamation presents a standard form: first an interjection ('Oh alas'), then an explanation of the interjection, given in the Genitive. The interjection 'arises from' the matter specified in the Genitive.

ὦ πόποι **κεδνῆς ἀρωγῆς κἀπικουρίας** στρατοῦ. (A.*Pers.* 731.)  
*Oh alas for our army's trusty help and defence!*

## 39.5. Genitive with Compound Verbs

The Genitive Case is used with some compound verbs, including multiple compounds (with more than one adverbial prefix). The type of Genitive usage depends on the meaning of a particular simple verb and on the meaning of its prefix(es). Legal terms with the prefix *κατα-* comprise a common group of compound verbs. For example, *κατηγορεῖν* takes (among other constructions) a Genitive of the person condemned, with or without an Accusative of the charge or crime.

... πολὺ μᾶλλον αὐτοὺς προσήκει **τῶν λιπόντων** τὴν τάξιν κατηγορεῖν ἢ ὑπὲρ τῶν τοιούτων ἀπολογεῖσθαι. (Lys. 14.21.)

... *it is much more appropriate for them to accuse those who desert their post than to make a defence on behalf of such people.*

## References

Smyth (1956), *Greek grammar*, §§1339–1449.

## EXERCISE 39

Translate the following passages. For each passage, briefly indicate the general and particular function of the Genitive phrases in **bold** type, for example, Partitive (general), Limits of Time (particular) and modifying which verb, adjective or adverb.

1. ... πορεύεσθαι διανοεῖτο πρὸς αὐτοὺς ἐπὶ τοῦ Ἑλλησπόντου, ὅπως μέμψηται ... **τῶν** περὶ τὴν Ἄνταινδρον **γεγενημένων** ...

διανοεῖσθαι (Mid.)      *to intend*

περὶ (+ Acc.)      *near*

2. ... καὶ πλεύσαντες ἐς Λευκάδα τὴν Κορινθίων ἀποικίαν **τῆς γῆς** ἔτεμον καὶ Κυλλήνην ... ἐνέπρησαν ...

Κυλλήνην      Object of ἐνέπρησαν

3.      **σφῶν** γὰρ ἐστερημένη  
λυπρὸν διάξω βίοτον ἀλγεινόν τ' ἐμοί·

σφῶν      Gen. dual 2nd pers. pronoun

4. **τοῦ** δ' ἐπιγιγνομένου θέρους Πελοποννήσιοι καὶ οἱ ξύμμαχοι ἅμα τῷ σίτῳ ἀκμάζοντι ἐστράτευσαν ἐς τὴν Ἀττικὴν ...

ἐπιγίγνεσθαι      *to follow* (chronologically)

ἅμα (adv.)      *at the same time as* (+ Dat. with Partc.)

ἀκμάζειν      *to be ripe*

5. ἐπειρώτεον ὦν οἱ Ἐπιδαύριοι κότερα **χαλκοῦ** ποιέονται τὰ ἀγάλματα ἢ **λίθου**.

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ἐπειρωτέειν (Ionic)	<i>to inquire</i> (here 3rd pers. pl. Past Imperf. Indic. Act.)
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ὦν	οὔν (Attic)
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κότερα (Ionic)	πότερα (Attic)
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ἄγαλμα, -ατος, τό	<i>statue</i>
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The two Gen. terms have the same function.

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6. αὐτουργοί τε γάρ εἰσι Πελοποννήσιοι καὶ ... **χρονίων πολέμων καὶ διαποντίων** ἄπειροι ...

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αὐτουργός, -όν	<i>self-employed</i>
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διαπόντιος, -ον	<i>overseas</i>
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7. ὑμεῖς δ', ὧ ἄνδρες Ἀθηναῖοι, Σμίκρῳ **δέκα ταλάντων** ἐτιμήσατε ...

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τιμᾶν	<i>to set the penalty</i>
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8. ἐπεὶ πλείων χρόνος  
ὄν δεῖ μ' ἀρέσκειν τοῖς κάτω **τῶν** ἐνθάδε.

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τοῖς, τῶν	masc.
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9. ... οὐ μνημονεύεις οὐκέτ' οὐδέν, ἦνίκα  
**ἔρκέων** ποθ' ὑμᾶς οὗτος ἐγκεκλημένους, ...  
ἐρρύσατ' ἐλθὼν μῶνος ...;

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οὐδέν	internal Acc. with μνημονεύεις
ἦνίκα ... μῶνος	noun clause, Object of μνημονεύεις
ἔρκος, -ους, τό	<i>fence, (line of) defence</i>
(ἐ)ρύεσθαι (Mid.)	<i>to rescue</i>

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