

DATIVE CASE

An indirect object is an object that is acted on by a verb as a secondary effect or in an indirect manner. In English, an indirect object is commonly placed immediately before the direct object. For example, in the sentence, "He gave her a flower.", "a flower" is the direct object and "her" is the indirect object. Alternatively, an indirect object in English may be expressed in a prepositional phrase with "to" or "for". For example, "He gave a flower to her." or "He bought a flower for her."

In Latin, an indirect object is never indicated by either word order or a preposition. Instead, a Latin noun acting as an indirect object is put in a new case called the dative. Literally, the dative case means "the giving case", because verbs that involve "giving" frequently require an indirect object. For a-nouns, the dative case is *-ae* in the singular and *-is* in the plural. For us- and um-nouns, the dative case is *-o* in the singular and *-is* in the plural. For is-nouns, the dative is *-i* in the singular and *-ibus* in the plural.

Nominative, Accusative, Genitive, and Dative Cases

	a-nouns		us-nouns		um-nouns		is-nouns	
	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.
Nominative	a	ae	us	i	um	a	is	es
Accusative	am	as	um	os	um	a	em	es
Genitive	ae	arum	i	orum	i	orum	is	(i)um
Dative	ae	is	o	is	o	is	i	ibus

The following are examples with an indirect object in the dative case.

Vir uvas feminae dat.

Vir uvas feminis dat.

Vir uvas filio dat.

Vir uvas filiis dat.

Vir uvas feminae dat.