

Chapter Seven

Prepositions

Vocabulary

1. One case prepositions:

ἀνά	acc.	up, among, between
ἀντί	gen.	opposite, instead of
ἀπό	abl.	from, away from
εἰς	acc.	into, to, in
ἐκ	abl.	out of (ἐξ when used before a vowel)
πρό	abl.	before
σύν	inst.	with, together with

2. Two case prepositions:

διά	gen.	through
	acc.	because of
ἐν	loc.	in, at, on
	inst.	by means of
κατά	gen.	down, upon, against
	acc.	along, according to
μετά	gen.	with
	acc.	after
περί	gen.	about, concerning
	acc.	around, about
ὑπέρ	gen.	in behalf of, for the sake of
	acc.	over, above, beyond
ὑπό	abl.	by (agency)
	acc.	under

3. Three case prepositions:

ἐπί	gen.	on, upon, over
	loc.	on, in, above
	acc.	over, across
παρά	abl.	from
	loc.	with, beside
	acc.	beside, beyond, along
πρός	gen.	for, for the sake of
	loc.	at, on, near
	acc.	toward, with, at

Purpose of Prepositions

Prepositions show direction and location of action. Prepositions are used to bring out more clearly the idea of case. As can be seen in the basic function of the noun's form, some prepositions are "built into"

the case, but prepositions have developed through the stages of the language to express the relation of the verb to the noun. Prepositions became so widely used that some of the cases have disappeared in modern Greek.¹ To see how this works, consider the example: “and Jesus went out from the temple,” which is written in Matthew 24:1 as, ‘Καί ἐξελθὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀπὸ τοῦ ἱεροῦ,’ but can be written without the ἀπό preposition as, ‘Καί ἐξελθὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοῦ ἱεροῦ.’

Prepositions in Compound Words

Prepositions are popular in compound words, particularly verbs as has already been seen with some deponent verbs. Namely, with the basic word ἐρχομαι, “I come, go,” adding the preposition makes the compound ἀπέρχομαι, which means “I go away.” Others, διέρχομαι, “I go through,” εἰσέρχομαι “I go into, enter,” ἐξέρχομαι, “I go out of,” προσέρχομαι, “I come to, go to,” or συνέρχομαι “I come with.”

Elision in Prepositions

The spelling of a preposition changes according to how the word before it is breathed. An apostrophe is added to show the loss of the vowel. This process is called elision and the changes are given below:

Preposition	Before Smooth Breathing	Before Rough Breathing
ἀντί		ἀνθ'
ἀπό	ἀπ'	ἀφ'
διά	δί'	δί'
κατά	κατ'	καθ'
μετά	μετ'	μεθ'
ὑπό	ὑπ'	ὑφ'
παρά	παρ'	παρ'
ἐπί	ἐπ'	ἐφ'

Practice

A. Translate the following phrases.

1. Γῆ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε (you are) σεσωσμένοι (being saved) διὰ πίστεως (Eph. 2:8).
2. καὶ Ἕλληνας (Greek) πάντας (all) ὑφ' ἁμαρτίαν (sin) εἶναι (are). (Rom. 3:9).
3. κατὰ πνεῦμα ἀγιωσύνης (saints) (Rom. 1:4).
4. ὅτι (that) δὲ ἐν νόμῳ οὐδεὶς (no one) δικαιούται (being justified) (Gal. 3:1).
5. ἣν (which) ἔχεις πρὸς τὸν κύριον Ἰησοῦν (Philemon 1:5).

¹ Ray Summers, *Essentials of New Testament Greek* (Nashville: B & H Publishers, 1995), p. 37