

# Understanding Language: An Introduction to Case Teaching Plan

## What is this lesson about?

In this lesson pupils will learn to:

- Recognise the cases found in English
- Understand the differences between different cases
- Know some of the most common cases found in other languages
- Recognise how case can play a role in communication

## Terms needed

- Subject
- Direct object
- Indirect object
- Nominative
- Accusative
- Genitive
- Dative

## Lesson structure (see accompanying slides)

- Introduction
  - What is case?
- Nominative and accusative case
  - As found in English
  - Relation to sentence structure
  - Words with and without separate case forms
- Genitive case
  - Looking at English possessives
- Dative case
  - Use for indirect objects
  - Examples from French and German
  - Differences between languages (see Activities)
- Other cases
  - Vocative
  - Instrumental
  - Ergative
  - Adessive
  - Others? (see Activities)



- Summary
  - Different cases in different languages
  - Case is shown through changes in form
  - Case makes structure and meaning more explicit

## Activities

- Discuss whether it makes sense to talk about a ‘dative case’ in English.
  - If so, why?
  - If not, why not?
- Ask pupils about other languages that they know.
  - How would they say the example sentences in those languages?
  - Does anyone know a language with a case not discussed here?
  - Does anyone know a language with no case marking at all? How does that language make distinctions such as subject/object?

