Summary of the Most Common Uses of the Genitive Case

Adjectival Genitives (Genitive modifying its **head noun like an adjective would.)

Name	Definition	Translated by (replacing 'of')	Other Important Elements/Identification	Examples
Attributive Genitive *(pp. 86-88) [Hebrew Genitive, Genitive of Quality]	Specifies an attribute or innate quality of the **head noun. Semantically similar to simple adjective, but more emphatic in force.	(Genitive noun functions as adjective, modifying head noun.)	- The genitive can be converted into an attributive adjective. - Very common in NT; probably due to Semitic mindset of most of its authors.	Luke 18:6 'judge of unrighteousness' = 'unrighteous judge' Rom 6:6 'body of sin' = 'sinful body'
Possessive Genitive (pp. 81-83)	The substantive in the genitive possesses the thing to which it stands related (i.e. the head noun is owned by the genitive noun). Ownership can be broadly defined, not necessarily literal, like possession of physical property.	'belonging to', 'possessed by'	- Possessive pronouns will be the primary words in this category. Can usually assume the primary nuance of a possessive pronoun fits this category. - Head noun will normally be an entity rather than an abstract idea. - Genitive noun will usually be animate.	Matt 26:51 'his ear' Matt 26:51 'slave of the high priest' Heb 11:25 'the people of God'
Partitive Genitive (pp. 84-86) [Wholative Genitive]	Indicates the whole of which the head noun is a part. Requires head noun to have a nuance indicating 'portion'. (e.g. some, one, a part, tenth, etc.)	'which is a part of'	- Occasionally head noun will be absent, understood from context. Frequently will also see ἐκ with the genitive. - The genitive noun will usually be inanimate.	Luke 19:8 'half of my possessions' Rom 11:17 'some of the branches' Rom 15:26 'the poor of the saints'
Genitive of Apposition (pp. 95-100) [Epexegetical Genitive, Genitive of Definition]	The substantive in the genitive case refers to the same thing as the head noun. (But not an exact equation.) Head noun may or may not also be in genitive case.	'namely', 'that is', 'which is', 'who is' (if a personal noun)	- Head noun will state a large category. - Genitive will state a specific example that is a part of a head noun that begs for clarification. - Often used when head noun is ambiguous or metaphorical. Can suggest provocative imagery.	John 2:21 'temple of his body' Rom 4:11 'sign of circumcision'
Genitive in Simple Apposition (p. 94)	All the cases can function as a simple appositive; they are formed by (1) two adjacent substantives (2) in the same case, (3) referring to same thing, (4) having same syntactical relation to rest of clause.	'namely', 'that is', 'which is', 'who is' (if a personal noun)	- Gives different designation of head noun, to clarify or give a different meaning to clause. -Does not give a specific example of head noun, merely describes it in different terms. - It is in genitive case only because it is in apposition to head noun that is in genitive case.	Col 1:18 'the body, the church' Titus 2:13 'Savior, Jesus Christ'
Descriptive Genitive *** (pp. 79-81) ['Catch-All' Genitive]	Describes the head noun in a loose way. The nature of the relationship between the two nouns is usually quite ambiguous. Similar to Attributive use, but broader.	'described by', 'characterized by'	- All genitives do some description; therefore this category should be the last resort, only if the genitive fits into no other use. - This category should be rarely used since most genitives will carry a more specific nuance.	Rom 13:12 'armor of light' John 2:16 'house of merchandise' 2 Cor 6:2 'day of salvation'

* Page numbering refers to the major section where this topic is discussed in "Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics" by Daniel B. Wallace.

** These classifications of the genitive case refer to the way in which a genitive noun modifies/relates to another noun, referred to as its 'head noun'. In word order, normally the head noun will directly precede the genitive noun.

*** The two categories not emboldened (on these two pages) are less commonly used, but appear here since they help clarify other commonly used categories.

Summary of the Most Common Uses of the Genitive Case (continued)

Ablatival Genitives

Name	Definition	Translated by (replacing 'of')	Other Important Elements/ Identification	Examples
Genitive of Comparison (pp. 110-112)	Genitive noun almost always comes after a comparative adjective.	Requires the word 'than' rather than 'of'	Comparative adjectives include words such as μείζων, πλεῖον, and other adjectives ending in –er (in English).	Matt 6:25 'is not your life worth more <u>than food</u>?' John 14:28 'Father is greater <u>than I</u>'

Verbal Genitives (Genitive Related to a head noun that Includes/Implies a Verbal Idea)

Name	Definition	Translated by (replacing 'of')	Other Important Elements/ Identification	Examples
Subjective Genitive (pp. 113-116)	The genitive substantive functions semantically as the subject of the verbal idea implicit in the head noun.	'of'	Some constructions could be either Subjective or Objective Genitive; only context can tell. E.g. 'love of God' can mean either 'loving God' or 'God loving us (or some other object)'.	Matt 24:27 'coming <u>of the Son</u> of Man' = 'Son of Man comes' Acts 12:11 'expectation <u>of the Jewish people</u>' = 'Jewish people expected'
Objective Genitive (pp. 116-119)	The genitive substantive functions semantically as the direct object of the verbal idea implicit in the head noun.	'for', 'about', 'concerning', 'toward' (or 'against')	Can only occur with head nouns that imply a transitive verbal idea, thus having a direct 'object'.	Matt 12:31 'blasphemy <u>of the Spirit</u>' ='blaspheming (against) the Spirit' Luke 11:42 'neglected …<u>love of God</u>' = 'neglected love for God'
Plenary Genitive (pp. 119-121)	Contains both Subjective and Objective Genitive ideas at the same time. Possibly with deliberate ambiguity.	'of'	Both Subjective and Objective seem to fit. Meanings to not contradict, but rather compliment each other.	2 Cor 5:14 'love <u>of Christ</u> constrains us' = 'our love for Christ' and/or 'Christ's love for us'

Adverbial Genitives

Name	Definition	Translated by (replacing 'of')	Other Important Elements/ Identification	Examples
Genitive Absolute (pp. 654-655)	This construction includes a participle and a noun, both in the genitive case. The clause is 'unconnected' with the rest of sentence (i.e. the logical subject of the participle is different than subject of finite verb). Participle is adverbial.	Genitive participle translated temporally. Genitive noun as subject of genitive participle.	- Structure: 1. A noun or pronoun in the genitive case (sometimes only implied); acting as the logical subject of the participle. 2. Always a genitive anarthrous participle. 3. Usually the entire construction is at the front of a sentence or clause. - Mostly found in the Gospels and Acts.	Matt 9:18 '<u>while he was saying</u> these things, … a certain ruler came' Acts 13:2 '<u>while they were worshiping</u> the Lord… the Holy Spirit said'
Genitive of Time (pp. 122-124)	The genitive substantive indicates the kind of time. "Time during which…" (Dat.: 'point of time'; Acc.: extent of time)	'during', 'at' 'within'	Can be expected with words that lexically involve a temporal element.	Luke 18:12 'twice <u>within a week</u>' John 3:2 '<u>during the night</u>'

    The definitions mentioned above are the most common uses of the Genitive case, but by no means all of the uses. Many other uses are very significant exegetically and worthwhile knowing. A complete listing would also include the following uses: <u>Adjectival Genitives</u>: Genitive of Relationship, Attributed Genitive, Genitive of Material, Genitive of Content, Genitive of Destination or Purpose, Predicate Genitive, Genitive of Subordination, Genitive of Production/Producer, and Genitive of Product. <u>Ablatival Genitives</u>: Genitive of Separation and Genitive of Source (Origin).

    Like the other oblique cases, the Genitive can be used as the <u>direct object</u> of certain verbs (especially verbs of sensation, emotion/volition, sharing, and ruling), after certain <u>prepositions</u>, and after certain adjectives and nouns whose lexical nature requires a genitive (such as 'worthy' (adj.) or 'midst' (noun)).