

NOUNS: ACCUSATIVE CASE

[see Waltke, § 10.2]

INTRODUCTION

The accusative will designate the direct objects or nouns modifying or explaining the verbal action. It will also express adverbial definitions of time, space, manner, etc.

Sometimes the accusative can be identified quite readily by the sign of the accusative **אֶת** or by the directive **לְ**, (indicating direction or motion towards). Other times, it must be recognized by its position and syntactical connections. At times, an accusative may be placed just after another noun (in a similar manner to a construct relationship). If the nouns are in construct, the absolute will be a genitive. If they are not in construct, the latter word will be an accusative.

CATEGORIES

1. Direct Object - several classes of verbs regularly take a direct object.

- a. Transitive Verbs [Most of the time, the direct object will be marked with the *sign of the accusative* **אֶת**]

Gen 1:1 "God created the heavens and the earth."

Acc		Acc						
הָאָרֶץ	וְאֵת	הַשָּׁמַיִם	אֵת	אֱלֹהִים	בָּרָא	בְּרֵאשִׁית		
the-earth	and	the-heavens	***	God	he-created	in-beginning		

Prepositions Marking A Direct Object. Keep in mind, however, that a preposition can sometimes be used to "mark" a direct object (e.g., **כִּי** in Ps 91:6; Gen 32:26; cf. Waltke, p 165). See Note 1 following the "dependent genitive" in the previous section on genitives.

Gen 2:16 "And the LORD God commanded Adam . . ."

Acc					
הָאָדָם	עַל־	אֱלֹהִים	יְהוָה	וַיִּצַּו	
the-man	to	God	Yahweh	and-he-commanded	

- b. Causative Forms of Intransitive Verbs [i.e., verbs which are intransitive in the Qal stem but which take an object in a causative stem like the Hiphil or Piel stem]

Gen 4:3 "Cain brought ... an offering to Yahweh"

Acc				
לַיהוָה	מִנְחָה	... קֵין	וַיָּבֵא	
to-Yahweh	offering	Cain	and-he-brought	

- c. "complement accusatives" (so Waltke, p 168)

Certain verbs which are normally *intransitive* can (under certain conditions) function as transitive verbs.

(1) Verbs of fullness and want

Isa 1:11 "I am sated with burnt offerings of rams"

	Acc	
אֵילִים	עֹלוֹת	שָׂבַעְתִּי
rams	burnt-offerings-of	I-have-enough

(2) Verbs of "putting on," "putting off," and "wearing"

1 Kgs 22:30 "... but you put on your robes"

Gen	Acc	
בְּגָדֶיךָ	לְבַשׁ	וְאַתָּה
robes-of-you	wear!	but-you

- d. "effected-object accusative" - The noun in the accusative is the result or effect of a transitive verb's action (rather than being *acted on* by the verb's action).

Gen 1:11 "Let the earth produce vegetation"

Acc		
תִּשָּׂא	הָאָרֶץ	תְּרַשָּׂא
Vegetation	the-earth	let-her-produce

If the accusative word is from the same root as the verb, then we term this "cognate effected accusative."

2. **Cognate Accusative** - an abstract noun of action or state, identical or analogous to the action or state expressed by the verb. [Waltke, §10.2.1g, calls these "cognate internal accusatives"]

- a. Strengthening the nuance of the verb (cf. Gen 11:3; Jos 6:5; 10:10)

Jon 1:10 "And the men were exceedingly afraid" (lit., "they feared a great fear")

	Acc		
גְּדוֹלָה	יִרְאָה	הָאֲנָשִׁים	וַיִּירָאוּ
great	terror	the-men	and-they-were-terrified

- b. Stressing a specific example or instance

Jos 7:1 "But the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully with the ban"

	Acc			
בַּחֲרָם	מַעַל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּנֵי־	וַיַּמְעִלוּ
with-the-devoted	unfaithfulness	Israel	sons-of	but-they-were-unfaithful

- c. Expresses a comparison (must have a cognate accusative followed by a genitive in which a comparison is implied).

Jer 22:19 "He will be buried with a donkey's burial"

		Acc
יִקְבֹּר	חֲמֹר	קְבוּרַת
he-will-be-buried	donkey	burial-of

Note: NIV translates "He will have the burial of a donkey"

3. **Double Accusative** - when the verb takes two accusatives (see Waltke, § 10.2.3 for a more detailed analysis).

a. **When the two objects are unrelated**

- 1) Having a causative verb, a personal object, and the impersonal object [the "personal object" specifies that which is acted upon]

Jud 4:22 "I will show you the man whom you are looking for"

	Acc		Acc	
וְאֶתְּ	אֶתְּ	אֲשֶׁר־	אֶתְּ	מִבְקֶשׁ
and-I-will-show-you	***	the-man	whom	looking-for
		you		

- 2) Having a causative verb (often of filling/supplying/providing), the object (may or may not be personal), and the means/complement.

Gen 42:25 "and they filled their bags with grain"

Acc	Acc	
וַיִּמְלֵאוּ	אֶתְּ	בָּרִ
and-they-filled	***	bags-of-them
		grain

Ps 8:6 "You crowned him with glory and honor"

Acc	Compound Acc
וַיְקַדְּשׁ	וְהָדָר וְכְבוֹד
you-crowned-him	and-honor and-glory

- 3) Having a causative verb of putting on and putting off (with a personal direct object and a complement object).

Gen 37:23 "And they stripped Joseph of his coat"

Acc	Acc	
וַיַּשְׁפִּיטוּ	אֶתְּ	כִּתְנֹתָיו
that-they-stripped	***	robe-of-him
	Joseph	***

- 4) Verbs of speaking and giving (e.g., asking and answering)

Isa 58:2 "They ask me for just decisions"

Acc	Acc
יִשְׁאַלֵּנִי	מִשְׁפָּטִי־צֶדֶק
they-ask-me	decisions-of justice

b. When the two objects are more closely related

1) Material

- (a) Material of Composition - indicates the material of which the direct object is made, formed, or built.

Gen 2:7 "He formed the man (out of) dust"

Acc		Acc	
עָפָר	אֶת־הָאָדָם	וַיִּצַּר	...
dust	the-man	***	and-he-formed

- (b) Material of Use - indicates the material one uses to accomplish an action or goal.

Isa 5:2 "He planted it with choice vines"

Acc		Acc
שִׁדְּקָה	וַיִּטְעֶהוּ	
choicest-vine	and-he-planted-him	

2) Name - indicates the name by which one is designated.

Gen 25:25 "and they called his name Esau"

Acc	Gen	Acc
עֵשָׂו	שְׁמוֹ	וַיִּקְרְאוּ
Esau	name-of-him	so-they-called

3) Rank - indicates the rank or status to which one is appointed.

Deut 1:15 "I appointed them chiefs"

רָאשִׁים	אֹתָם	וָאֶתֶן
authorities	them	and-I-made

4) Product - indicates the product into which the direct object is made, formed, or built (opposite of "material").

1 Kgs 18:32 "he built the stones (into) an altar"

Acc		Acc	
מִזְבֵּחַ	אֶת־הָאֲבָנִים	וַיִּבְנֶה	...
altar	the-stones	***	and-he-built

Note: stones are the material; the altar is the product.

Note: This category includes situations where something is "caused" to become something else (cf. Joüon, §125w):

1 Kgs 11:30 "he rent it (into) twelve pieces"

Acc			Acc
קִרְעִים	עֶשֶׂר	שְׁנַיִם	וַיִּקְרַעְהָ
pieces	ten	two	and-he-tore-her

This is not the category of "measure," since *extent in space* is not involved.

- 5) **Benefit/Outcome** - the noun in the accusative specifies the *benefit* or *outcome* of the verbal action.

Gen 15:6 *“And He credited it to him as righteousness”*

Acc
צִדְקָה לוֹ וַיַּחְשְׁבֶהָ
righteousness to-him and-he-credited-her

- c. **Means** - to indicate the means by which the action is accomplished (usually, the second accusative expresses the means).

Jos 7:25 *"And all Israel stoned him with stones"*

Acc Acc
אבן ישראל כל- אתו וירגמו
stone Israel all-of him then-they-stoned

Note: You may use the label organ of expression in certain cases. Waltke (§10.2.1g) calls this a non-cognate internal accusative.

Ezk 11:13 *"I cried with a loud voice"*

[The voice was the organ to express the crying; or it was the means.]

4. Adverbial Accusative

- a. **Manner** - indicates the manner in which the verbal action is accomplished (usually anarthrous).

Ezk 27:30 *"they will cry bitterly"*

Acc
מֶרָה וַיִּזְעֻקוּ
bitterness and-they-will-cry

- b. **Locative** [or "accusative of place"] - indicates the place where an action occurred, or from where it initiated. Also includes situations describing where an object exists, remains, or rests (similar to "terminative"). Cf. 2 Sam 3:20. [May need to add words like "in," "at" or "from"].

2 Chr 33:20 *"they buried him in his own house"*

Acc	
בֵּיתוֹ	וַיִּקְבְּרוּהוּ
palace-of-him	and-they-buried-him

- c. **Terminative** - indicates the direction or destination of an action (includes directive π).

Gen 24:16 *"she went down to the well and filled her jar"*

Acc

וַתֵּרֶד וַתִּמְלֵא וַתֵּינֶה וַתֵּרֶד

jar-of-her and-she-filled to-the-spring and-she went-down

- d. **Measure (or Extent)** - indicates more precisely the "extent in space" in answer to the question "how far?" or "how much?".

Gen 7:20

"The waters rose fifteen cubits"

^{Acc}
 הַמַּיִם גָּבְרוּ מִלְּמַעַלָּה אַמָּה עֶשְׂרֵה חֲמִשָּׁה
 the-waters they-rose from-above cubit ten five

1 Kgs 19:4

"... while he went a day's journey into the desert."

^{Gen} ^{Acc}
 יוֹם יָרַךְ בַּמִּדְבָּר הָלַךְ וְהוּא
 day journey-of into-the-desert he-went while-he

- e. **Temporal** - indicates the time during which an action occurred, or the duration of the action. [This differs from "Measure," because the issue is specifically one of *time*].

Gen 40:7

"why are your faces so sad today"

^{Acc}
 הַיּוֹם רָעִים פְּנֵיכֶם מְדוּעַ
 the-day sad-ones faces-of-you why?

Gen 14:4

"For twelve years they served . . ." [see page one for Heb.]

Note: This category includes the use of כָּל ("all, each, every") in combination with other terms. Thus, כָּל-יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ = all the days of your life ("all the days" is a temporal accusative).

- f. **Acc. of State** - specifies the state or condition of the subject or object of the verb while the action of the verb is being accomplished (also called "explicative accusative"). Functions somewhat like a Greek circumstantial participle. Usually involves indefinite adjectives or participles which are descriptive of nouns or pronouns. Does not have to be a participle [see Prov 1:12 where the adj. חַיִּים serves as the acc.].

- 1) Pertains to the **Subject**

1 Kgs 1:45

"they have come up from there rejoicing"

^{Ptc-Acc}
 שְׂמֵחִים מִשָּׁם וַיַּעֲלוּ
 ones-cheerful from-there and-they-went-up

- 2) Pertains to the **Object**

Num 11:10

"Moses heard the people weeping"

^{Ptc-Acc}
 בָּכָה אֶת-הָעָם מֹשֶׁה וַיִּשְׁמַע
 wailing the-people *** Moses and-he-heard

In these situations, it may be helpful to view both the "unit of measure" and the "measure" as one expression. This also applies to the "Temporal" category.

- g. **Restrictive** - specifies the point of incidence of the action or the part or member especially affected by the action.

Gen 3:15 *"he shall bruise you on the head"* [Waltke, however, regards Gen 3:15 as "Acc. of State"]

Acc
 ראש יִשְׁכַּחַד הוּא
 head he-will-crush-you he

Note: This is slightly different than "locative."

- h. **Specification** - describes a feature of a noun in the absolute state (cf. Waltke, p 173).

Ps 71:7 *"... but You are my refuge as to strength."*

Acc
 וְאַתָּה מִמְּחִסֵּי עוֹ:
 strong refuge-of-me but-you

- i. **Result** - indicates the result of an action.

Note: This category is rare. For a possible example, see Ex 9:9.

5. **Indirect Object** - the accusative functions as an indirect object.

Josh 15:19 *"since you have given (to) me the land of the Negev"*

Acc
 כִּי אֶרֶץ הַנֶּגֶב נָתַתָּנִי
 you-gave-me the-Negev land-of since

6. **Comparison** - to indicate a comparison with the action or state of the verb.

Isa 21:8 *"he shouted out like a lion"*

Acc
 וַיִּקְרָא אֲרִיָּה [note: possible textual problem with Isa 21:8]
 lion and-he-shouted

Hab 1:11 *"Then he swept past like a wind and went on"*

Acc
 וַיֵּעָבֵר רוּחַ חֲלָף אָז
 and-he-goes-on wind he-sweeps-past then