

- English nouns and pronouns have three cases (i) subject, (ii) object [which has three forms, direct object, indirect object, object of a preposition], and (iii) possessive. Western scholarly tradition has seen eight cases in Pali, and given them names taken from Latin tradition. Pali grammar recognizes eight "divisions," *vibhatti*, which correspond to the eight cases, but only six "factors of action," *kāraka*. The cases can be seen analytically, though not historically, as an expansion of the three cases of English:

ENGLISH CASE	PALI CASE	PREPOSITIONS COMMONLY USED IN TRANSLATION	OED DESCRIPTION: 'THE CASE...'
SUBJECT	nominative		of nouns, adjectives, and pronouns, which is, or is connected with, the subject of a verb
DIRECT OBJECT	accusative	[to]	expressing destination or goal of motion; the case which follows prepositions implying motion towards; the object of transitive verbs, i.e. the destination of the verbal action
OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION	instrumental	by, with, through	denoting that <i>with</i> or <i>by</i> which something is done
OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION	dative	to, for	which denotes the indirect or remote object of the action of a verb, that <i>to</i> or <i>for</i> whom or which we do a thing, or <i>to</i> whom we give a thing
OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION	ablative	from	expressing <i>direction from</i> a place or <i>time</i> ; the <i>source</i> whence action proceeds; the <i>cause</i> or ideal source of an event, the <i>instrument</i> and <i>agent</i> or material sources of an action
POSSESSIVE	genitive	apostrophe and/or -s, of	chiefly used to denote that the person or thing signified is related to another as source, possessor, or the like, but also employed in a variety of idiomatic usages
OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION	locative	at, in	which denotes 'place where'
SUBJECT	vocative		of nouns, adjectives, or pronouns, used to express address or invocation