1. Fall: Nominativ

1.) Every subject is in the nominative case.

The subject is the acting person / thing in a sentence. The subject is "doing" something.

Example 1:
- **Der Mann** geht nach Hause. (The man goes home.)

You can ask who does something in the sentence? Who goes home? --> answer: der Mann

Example 2:
- **Eine Frau** küsst einen Mann. (A woman kisses a man.)

You can ask who does something in the sentence? Who kisses a man? --> answer: eine Frau

2.) Every noun or pronoun which follows a form of "be" is in the nominative case.
The noun / pronoun after the "be" is a so-called "predicate complement".

Example 1:
- Er <u>war</u> **ein Doktor**. (He was a doctor.)

"Er" and "Doktor" are in the nominative case. "Er" is the subject of the sentence. "Doktor" follows a form of "be" and is thus a predicate complement.

Example 2:
- Ich <u>bin</u> **ein Student**. (I am a student.)

"Ich" and "Student" are in the nominative case. "Ich" is the subject of the sentence. "Student" follows a form of "be" and is thus a predicate complement.

4. Fall: Akkusativ

1.) The direct object is in the accusative case.

The direct object is the not-acting person / thing in a sentence. The direct object receives the action of the verb.

Example 1:
- **Der Mann küsst die Frau.**

The man is doing something. He kisses the woman. So the man is the subject of the sentence (=nominative).
The woman is being kissed. She is not acting. So she is the direct object (=accusative case).

2.) Nouns / pronouns which follow accusative prepositions are in the accusative case.

Accusative prepositions
- **bis** (till, to, by)
- **für** (for)
- **ohne** (without)
- **durch** (through)
- **gegen** (against)
- **um** (around, to, at)

Whenever you see one of these prepositions it must be a signal for you that the following noun / pronoun is in the accusative case.

Example 1:
- Ich kann ohne **dich** nicht leben. (I can't live without you.)

Example 2:
- Ich kaufe ein Geschenk für **meinen Vater**. (I buy a present for my father.)

3.) Nouns / pronouns which follow "two-way" prepositions are either in the accusative case or the dative case.

"two-way" prepositions
- **an** (at, on, to)
- **in** (in, into)
- **unter** (under, among)
- **auf** (at, on, to, upon)
- **neben** (beside, near, next to)
- **vor** (before, in front of, ago)
- **hinter** (behind)
- **über** (about, above, cross, over)
- **zwischen** (between)

When you can ask "Wohin?" (=whereto?) then the object is in the accusative case. That means you describe a motion towards a destination.	When you can ask "Wo?" (=where?) then the object is in the dative case. That means you describe a single location or a state of rest

Examples:
- Ich gehe in **die Kirche**. (I'm going to the church.) ->*Whereto do I go? -> to the church (I'm in motion. -> accusative case)*

- Ich bin in **der Kirche**. (I'm in the church.) ->*Where am I? -> in the church (I don't move. I'm staying there. -> dative case)*

4.) Most time expressions are in the accusative case.

Example 1:
- Ich gehe **jeden Tag** in die Schule. (I go every day to school.)

Example 2:
- Ich war **letzten August** auf den Philippinen. (Last August I've been to the Philippines.)

3. Fall: Dativ

1.) The indirect object is in the dative case.

The indirect object is the beneficiary of the action in the sentence. Usually it's a person.
You can also say the indirect object is the receiver of the direct object.

Example 1:
- **Der Mann gibt dem Kind das Buch.**

The man is doing something. He gives a book to the child. So the man is the subject of the sentence
(=nominative case).
The book is given. It's not acting. So it's the direct object (=accusative case).
The child benefits from this action. After the action it owns a new book. So the child is the indirect object
(=dative case).

2.) Nouns / pronouns which follow dative prepositions are in the dative case.

Dative prepositions
- **aus** (from, out of)
- **außer** (except for, besides)
- **bei** (at, near)
- **gegenüber** (across from, opposite)
- **mit** (with, by)
- **nach** (after, to)
- **seit** (since, for)
- **von** (from, by)
- **zu** (at, to)

Whenever you see one of these prepositions it must be a signal for you that the following noun / pronoun is in the dative case.

Example 1:
- Ich bleibe <u>bei</u> **dir**. (I stay with you.)

Example 2:
- Ich fahre <u>mit</u> **dem Auto**. (I drive with the car.)

3.) Nouns / pronouns which follow "two-way" prepositions are either in the accusative case or the dative case.

See accusative case

2. Fall: Genitiv

1.) The gentive case is used when you describe possesion / ownership.

Example 1:
- **Der Familienname meiner Freundin** ist Pacana. (My girlfriend's family name is Pacana.)

Example 2:
- **Das Kleid der Frau** ist schön. (The woman's skirt is nice.)

2.) The gentive case is used when you refer to a part of something else.
In English the "of-genitive" is used for this.

Example 1:
- Am **Anfang des Sommers** sehe ich sie wieder. (At the beginning of summer I will see her again.)

Example 2:
- **Das Ende des Films** war schlecht. (The end of the film was bad.)

3.) Nouns / pronouns which follow genitive prepositions are in the genitive case.

Genitive prepositions
- **anstatt / statt** (instead of)
- **außerhalb** (outside of)
- **innerhalb** (inside of, within)
- **trotz** (in spite of)
- **während** (during)
- **wegen** (because of)

Whenever you see one of these prepositions it must be a signal for you that the following noun / pronoun is in the genitive case.