Illustration of the Idea of Case in Latin

Case is usually a matter of nouns, pronouns, and the adjectives that describe those nouns and pronouns. Latin uses different cases to indicate different functions within a sentence.

Latin uses different word-endings to indicate different cases. Brutus is the nominative-case form. Brute is the vocative case form. Brutum is the accusative-case form. Thus:

Brutus venit. = Brutus is coming. Et tu, Brute! = You too, Brutus! Brutum video. = I see Brutus.

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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>Marcus and Julia, the carpenter made us a new door in the house's back room.</td>
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<td>CASE</td>
<td>Vocative</td>
<td>Vocative</td>
<td>Nominative</td>
<td>Dative</td>
<td>Accusative</td>
<td>Genitive</td>
<td>Ablative</td>
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1 Marcus and Julia are the people who are being directly addressed. These names would be put into the VOCATIVE CASE.

2 Carpenter is the subject, the agent that performs the action of the verb. It would be in the NOMINATIVE CASE.

3 Us is an indirect object here. Indirect objects tend to be put into the DATIVE CASE.

4 Door is the direct object, the DIRECT receiver of the action of the verb. Latin tends to use the ACCUSATIVE CASE for direct objects, although some verbs govern other cases.

5 House's is a noun indicating possession. We are speaking about the door that belongs to the house. Possession is frequently indicated by the GENITIVE CASE.

6 Room is a noun that is used as an object of the preposition in (Ask "In where?" "In the back room."). This preposition in would take an object in the ABLATIVE CASE to indicate place where.

• The LOCATIVE CASE, not illustrated here, is used to indicate place, e.g., "at Rome."