

THE NOUN: CASE

48. Examine these sentences:-

1. John threw a stone.
2. The horse kicked the boy.

In sentence 1, the noun John is the Subject. It is the answer to the question, "Who threw a stone?"

The group of words threw a stone is the Predicate.

The Predicate contains the verb threw.

What did John throw?-A stone. Stone is the object which John threw. The noun stone is therefore called the Object.

In sentence 2, the noun horse is the Subject. It is the answer to the question, 'Who kicked the boy?'

The noun boy is the Object. It is the answer to the question, 'Whom did the horse kick?'

49. When a noun (or pronoun) is used as the Subject of a verb, it is said to be in the Nominative Case.

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When a noun (or pronoun) is used as the Object of a verb, it is said to be in the Objective (or Accusative) Case.

Note-To find the Nominative, put Who? or What? before the verb.

To find the Accusative put, Whom? or What? before the verb and its subject.

50. A noun which comes after a preposition is also said to be in the Accusative Case; as,
The book is in the desk.

The noun desk is in the Accusative Case, governed by the preposition in.

51. Read the following sentences:-

Hari broke the window. (Object)

The window was broken. (Subject)

It will be seen that Nouns in English have the same form for the Nominative and the Accusative.

The Nominative generally comes before the verb, and the Accusative after the verb. Hence they are distinguished by the order of words, or by the sense.

52. Compare:-

1. Rama gave a ball.
2. Rama gave Hari a ball.

In each of these sentences the noun ball is the Object of gave.