What is a Noun? A noun is the name of a person, place, thing, or idea.

Using E-sword, go to John 3:16 and find all the nouns in the sentence. If you would like to circle them below you can.

οὕτω γὰρ ἤγείρησεν ὁ Θεὸς τὸν κόσμον, ὅπερ τὸν νῦν αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ ἐδωκεν, ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπάληται, ἀλλ’ ἐξη τοῦ αἰώνιον.

Gender of Nouns: Greek nouns are said to have gender. They are masculine, feminine or neuter. Generally we cannot see why a particular noun is a particular gender.

Number of Nouns
Greek nouns also show number. They indicate whether or not they are singular or plural.

Using E-sword, go to Mark 12:28-31 and take note of what is going on in the use of numbers in connection to the commandments.

Cases of Nouns
Nouns stand in relationship to the words around them. The way that nouns relate to each other will determine how we interpret the sentence. In the English language the subject typically precedes the verb. The noun that follows the verb typically receives the action of the subject. “Jon hit the ball.” Jon is the subject and the ball is the direct object. Jon is doing the verb of ‘hitting’ the ball. Let’s introduce the idea of possession. Let’s say that the ball belongs to Jon’s friend Paul. “Jon hit Paul’s ball.” Possession is typically introduced in the English language with an apostrophe S. Moving on! If we want to introduce an indirect object to the sentence we would say, “Jon hit Paul’s ball to Susan.” Susan is now the indirect object of the sentence. Jon didn’t hit Susan! If he did, that would not be nice, but it would also make Susan the Direct Object. Susan is the indirect object because she receives the Direct Object.

When we come to the Greek Language the Greek Language also has subjects, possession, indirect objects and direct objects. The biggest difference is that the Greek Language does not use word order for the reader to distinguish the differences. Rather the Greek language uses what is called case endings. By applying case endings to the stem of the Greek Word, the same word can change to a different case.

Subject (Called Nominatives): The nominative case is used to indicate the subject of a verb. The nominative is the one that is doing or receiving the action of the verb. The nominative answers the question of “who and what?”

Example: Jon hit Paul’s ball to Susan.

Using E-sword go to John 3:16 and find the nominative(s).

Take note of the order of the words. What is different about this word order compared to English?

Possession (Called Genitive): The genitive case indicates possession. The genitive usually follows the word it is modifying. The genitive answers the question of “whose.”

Example: Jon hit Paul’s ball to Susan.

Using E-sword go to Ephesians 6:11 and John 1:29 and find the genitive(s).

Direct Object (Called Accusative): The accusative is the direct object of the verb. It is receiving the action of the verb. The accusative answers the question of “whom or what?”

Example: Jon hit Paul’s ball to Susan.

Using E-sword go to Acts 16:14 and translate the following excerpt. Also find the nominative and accusative in the phrase. ὃ Κύριος διηνοεῖε τὴν καρδίαν

Indirect Object (Called Dative): The dative is the noun or pronoun that receives the direct object. The dative answers the question of “to whom or what?”

Example: Jon hit Paul’s ball to Susan.

Using E-sword go to John 5:26b and find the accusative and dative.