

## *Kata*

- A. The preposition *kata* (κατὰ) appears frequently in classical Greek and over 450 times in the NT.
- B. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> time that we have come across this preposition in the Philippian epistle (1:12, 20; 2:3; 3:5, 6, 14).
- C. Its use in a sentence is best determined by its immediate grammatical context.
- D. There is no doubt the etymology of this preposition since it appears as κάτα, and in Aracadian and Cypriote Greek it has the form κατύ.
- E. It is probably in the instrumental case, but an apparently dative form καταί survives a few times.
- F. The root meaning is “down” as seen from the writings of Homer to the NT, but there are other usages which are more frequent.
- G. The greatest majority of examples of *kata* in the NT are in the accusative case.
- H. On the whole, the NT use of the accusative with *kata* corresponds pretty closely to the classic idiom.
- I. The primary, local meaning of *kata* seems to have been either “down (from or upon)” (expressing vertical extension) or (less probably) “along while remaining in contact with” (expressing horizontal extension).
- J. Often the noun that follows *kata* specifies the criterion, standard or norm in the light of which a statement is made or is true, an action is performed, or a judgement is passed.
- K. The preposition will mean “according to”, “in conformity with”, “corresponding to”.
- L. Liddel and Scott lists the following meanings (pages 882-884):
  - 1. With genitive
    - a. Denoting motion from above, down from
    - b. Denoting downward motion
    - c. Down upon or over
    - d. Down into
    - e. Towards
    - f. Of vows or oaths
    - g. In a hostile sense, against
    - h. Of time, for
  - 2. With accusative
    - a. Of motion
      - (1) Downwards
      - (2) With or without significant motion, on, over, throughout a space
      - (3) Opposite, over against
      - (4) Distributively,
      - (5) of a whole divided into parts
    - b. Of time
    - c. Of numbers, by so many at a time
    - d. Of numbers, by so many at a time, one at a time, individually
    - e. Of direction, towards an object or purpose, on a business, for or after a matter, to rove in search of a body, for the purpose of seeing
    - f. Of pursuit
    - g. Of fitness or conformity,
      - (1) in accordance with
      - (2) In relation to, concerning
    - h. In comparisons, corresponding with, after the fashion of
    - i. By the favor of a god
    - j. Of round numbers
    - k. Of time,
      - (1) during or in the course of a period
      - (2) About
      - (3) this
    - l. Periphrastically
- M. *Kata* in composition means:
  - 1. Downwards, down
  - 2. In answer to, in accordance with
  - 3. Against in the hostile

4. Back, back again
- N. Frequently only to strengthen the notion of the simple word and sometimes to give a transitive force to an intransitive verb.
- O. Implying waste or consumption and generally in a disparaging sense.
- P. Bauer, Gingrich and Danker list the following (A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, pages 405-406):
1. With the genitive
    - a. of place
    - b. Down from something
    - c. Into something
    - d. Throughout
    - e. Figurative down upon, toward, against or something
    - f. With verbs of swearing, to denote what one swears by
    - g. In a hostile sense: against, after verbs that express hostile action; after words and expressions that designate hostile speech especially an accusation; after expressions which designate such a position or state of mind in a different way
  2. With the accusative
    - a. Of place
    - b. Of extension in space along, over, through, in, upon
    - c. Of direction toward, to, up to
    - d. Serves to isolate or separate by
    - e. As a distributive
    - f. Of time
    - g. In definite indications of time: at, on, during
    - h. With indefinite indications of time: toward, about
    - i. Distributively
    - j. Distributively and time indicating the division of a greater whole into individual parts
    - k. Of goal, purpose for the purpose of, for, to
    - l. Of the norm, of similarity, homogeneity according to, in accordance with, in conformity with, corresponding to
    - m. To introduce the norm which governs something
    - n. Of equality, similarity, example in accordance with, just as, similar(ly) to
    - o. To indicate the nature, kind, peculiarity or characteristics of a thing (frequently as a periphrasis for the adverb)
    - p. Denoting relationship to something, with respect to, in relation to, with respect to
    - q. As an adjective or acts as the periphrasis of a possessive pronoun or of a genitive. It stands for
    - r. An adjective
    - s. Possessive pronoun
    - t. The genitive of a noun
- Q. The New Thayers Greek-English Lexicon lists the following (pages 326-328):
1. With the genitive
    - a. Down from, down
    - b. Down upon (down into) something
    - c. Used of motion or extension through a space from top to bottom; hence through, throughout
    - d. Metaphorically
    - e. After verbs of swearing, adjuring, (the hand being as it were, placed down upon the thing sworn by, by
    - f. Against, with regard to, of; after verbs of accusing, rebelling, fighting, prevailing
  2. With the accusative
    - a. Of place
    - b. Of the place through which anything is done or is extended
    - c. Of the place to which one is brought (down)
    - d. Of direction; towards
    - e. Of the place where
    - f. Of that which so joins itself to one thing as to separate itself from another; our for, by
    - g. Of time; during, about
    - h. It denotes reference, relation, proportion, of various sorts

- (1) Distributively, indicating a succession of things following one another
  - (2) As respects; with regard to: in reference to; so far as relates to; as concerning
  - (3) According to, agreeably to; in reference to agreement or conformity to a standard, in various ways; according to anything as a standard, agreeably to, in proportion to, according to the measure of; used of the cause; through, on account of, from, owing to; of likeness; as, like as; of the mode in which a thing is done; of the quality;
    - i. Of the end aimed at; the goal to which anything tends
- R. Louw and Nida list the following (Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains volume 2):
1. Extension to a goal, normally down – ‘down, down to, downward’ (page 723)
  2. Extension along a path or road implying movement – ‘along, on’ (page 724).
  3. Extension in every direction throughout an area – ‘throughout’ (page 724).
  4. The position of an object oriented toward a particular direction – ‘facing, toward’ (page 719).
  5. A variety of positions distributed throughout an area or among a number of objects – ‘throughout, among’ (page 714).
  6. A position directly opposite and implying some space between – ‘opposite, off, offshore from’ (page 719).
  7. Marker of a point of time which is simultaneous to or overlaps with another point of time – ‘when, at the time of’ (page 633).
  8. Marker of a point of time, which is approximately simultaneous to another point of time – ‘about’ (page 634).
  9. (with the genitive) a marker of a supernatural person or force called upon to guarantee the carrying out of an oath or vow – ‘by, in the name of’ (page 802).
  10. (with the genitive) a marker of opposition, with the possible implication of antagonism – ‘against, in opposition to, in conflict with’ (page 802).
  11. A marker of a relation involving similarity of process – ‘in accordance with, an relation to’ (page 778).
  12. A marker of distributive relations, whether of place, time, or number – ‘throughout, from...to...after (page 789).
  13. A marker of a specific element bearing a relation to something else – ‘in relation to, with regard to’ (page 778).
  14. A marker of association, involving common, cultural, or ethnic elements – ‘with, among’ (page 792).
- S. Kohler lists the following meaning and usages with the accusative case (Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament volume 2, pages 253-254):
1. Of place: throughout, over, in, at
  2. Of time: during
  3. Figuratively
  4. Distributive: only, after, like
  5. Final: for the purpose of, for, according to, corresponding to
  6. Of homogeneity, similarity, correspondence, manner: according to, in accordance with, corresponding to, like
  7. Of reason: on the basis of, because, from
  8. Of direction or relationship: with respect to, in relation to
  9. As an alternative for an attributive or possessive genitive
- T. Dana and Mantey list the following (A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament page 107):
1. Resultant meanings
    - a. With the ablative case: down from
    - b. With the genitive case: down upon, down, against, throughout, by
    - c. With the accusative case: along, at, according to; distributive sense: from, by
  2. Remote meanings:
    - a. With reference to, with respect to, pertaining to
    - b. In
    - c. Before
- U. Wallace lists the following basic usages (Wallace, Daniel B., Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics - Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament):
1. With Genitive
    - a. Spatial: down from, throughout
    - b. Opposition: against

- c. Source: from
- 2. With Accusative
  - a. Standard: in accordance with, corresponding to
  - b. Spatial: along, through (extension); toward, up to (direction)
  - c. Temporal: at, during
  - d. Distributive: “indicating the division of a greater whole into individual parts”
  - e. Purpose: for the purpose of
  - f. Reference/Respect: with respect to, with reference to