

SUBJUNCTIVE

The Subjunctive mood is used to express ideas of contingency, uncertainty, doubt, expectation, volition, intention, desire, or hypothetical or potential situations. It refers, therefore, to matters which have not happened or may happen in the future. Its translation depends on recognition of a number of specific grammatical constructions in which it is regularly used.

FORMATION of the Subjunctive

- **Key indicator** is that theme vowel is lengthened to ω or η
(Note, however, that -αω and -οω verbs will contract to α / ᾱ or οι in the Pres Act 2/3Sg and 2Pl)
- **Endings:** Uses Primary endings (since Subjunctive has reference to future)

		Voice ⇔		MIDDLE/PASSIVE/DEPONENT	
		ACTIVE			
		Number ⇔		Number	
		Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
		Person ⇕			
		PRIMARY			
Present & Aorist Subjunctive	1st	ω	μεν	μαι	μεθα
	2nd	ς	τε	[σ αι >] η / ω	θε
	3rd	[ε ι >] η	σι(ν)	ται	νται

(Remember that Aorist Passives use Active endings)

- **Tense Codes:** Use normal tense codes--σ α for Aorist; θ η / η for Aor Pass; stem change for 2nd Aor--but note that there will be vowel contractions with ω taking precedence
- **No Augment**
- **Tenses:** The subjunctive occurs in the Present and Aorist tenses. (There a few examples of Perfect Subjunctives, almost exclusively occurring with forms of ὀράω > εἶδ-))
- **Tense Aspect:**

Present:	action continuing or in progress
Aorist:	simple or single action / event

USES or CONSTRUCTIONS with the Subjunctive

1. Hortatory

- a. 1st person plural (Present or Aorist; NB: not all 1st person plurals are Hortatory)
- b. Used in exhortations or commands
- c. Translate with *Let us...*

2. Deliberative Questions

- a. Look for ; (question mark punctuation)
- b. Used in real or rhetorical questions that express "puzzlement" by the speaker regarding what is possible, desirable, or necessary. It does not ask a question of fact (where Indicative is used) requesting information or yes/no response but reveals the questioner's mood or state of mind.
- c. Translate using *shall / will* but oftentimes better with *should / would... ?*

3. Strong Future Denial or Emphatic Negation

- a. οὐ μή with the Aorist Subjunctive (though in post-classical, Fut Ind is sometimes used)
- b. Expresses emphatic or strong denial of some future event.
- c. Translate using *never, not ever!*

4. Prohibition

- a. μή with the Aorist Subjunctive
- b. Regularly used instead of the Imperative for negative commands (prohibitions) referring to a simple or single action
- c. Translate: *Do not...*

5. Conditional Clauses

Subjunctive mood is used in conditional clauses expressing contingency, uncertainty, or merely likelihood.

(This type of condition is used in contrast to the "Simple Condition" or First Class conditional [uses εἰ with the Indicative to talk about situations that are real or being regarded as true for argument's sake], the "Contrary to Fact Condition" or Second Class conditional [uses ἄν with the Indicative to talk intentionally about non-real situations], and the "Less Probable Future" or Fourth Class conditional [uses εἰ and ἄν with the Optative to talk about more remotely possible situations].)

The basic structure of these clauses is: ἄν + Subjunctive, *then*...

The introductory forms may vary, but most commonly we find:

εἰάν (= εἰ ἄν)	if	ὅταν (= ὅτε ἄν)	whenever
καὶ ἄν (= καὶ εἰάν)	even if	ὅς ἄν	whoever

There is considerable variety and irregularities in the usage of subjunctive conditionals in NT Greek, but we may roughly describe two types.

- ἄν form + Subjunctive (any tense), *then* + any tense/mood verb
Quite often the verb in the apodosis (the "then" part) is in the future tense, and this type of conditional statement is identified variously as a **More Probable Future Condition**, Condition of Contingency or Uncertainty, or Third Class conditional. The certainty of the protasis (the "if" part) is not asserted; it is left as possible or simply likely. The apodosis is understood to refer to a future consequence.
- ἄν form + Subjunctive (any tense), *then* + Present Indicative verb
This conditional type is known as a **Present General Condition** or a Fifth Class condition. It reflects a generic situation with no claim about the likelihood of the protasis. The apodosis is generally understood to be experienced concurrently with the protasis.

6. ἵνα (or ὅπως) Clauses

Subordinate clauses introduced by the conjunction ἵνα express several different ideas. The common types are listed below in roughly descending order of frequency. The negative is ἵνα μή, though the ἵνα is sometimes omitted in negative clauses. These clauses are also introduced by ὅπως.

- Purpose:** Answers the question, "Why?" > *in order to, in order that, that, for, for the purpose of*
- Substantive:** Answers or expresses the idea, "What?" Noun clauses used to express content in apposition ("This is ..., namely,") or the substance or object normally expected after ideas of wishing, urging, striving, commanding, requesting, or the like. ἵνα may sometimes be omitted. > *that*
- Result:** Answers the question or idea, "With what consequences?" > *so that, with the result that, that*
- Substitute for the Infinitive:** In a number of instances, especially in later Greek, ἵνα clauses are coming to be used as equivalents or substitutes for an infinitive construction. > *(in order) to...*

7. Temporal Clauses

Clauses introduced by ἕως or ἕως οὗ ("until") or their equivalents, when denoting future or habitual action, regularly use a verb in the Subjunctive. Quite commonly the particle ἄν is also present. > *until*