

The Optative Mood

It's Unreal!

A lesson for the *Paideia* web-app
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The Optative Mood

- The Optative Mood is the last of the true verbal moods
 - Indicative (real action)
 - Imperative (commanded action)
 - Subjunctive (possible action)
 - Optative (unreal action)
- The optative is the mood of a wish
 - One step further removed from reality than the subjunctive



Image by [Jared Smith](#)



Parts of a Present Active Optative Verb

Augment	Stem	Tense marker	Conn. vowel	Mood marker	Personal Ending	Complete form
-	λυ	-	ο	ι	μι	λυοιμι



Optative Active Endings (Secondary)

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	-μι	-μεν
2 nd person	-ς	-τε
3 rd person	-	-ν



Present Optative Active Examples

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	λυοι <u>μι</u>	λυοιμεν
2 nd person	λυοις	λυοιτε
3 rd person	λυοι	λυοι <u>εν</u>



Parts of a 1st Aorist Active Optative Verb

Augment	Stem	Tense marker	Conn. vowel	Mood marker	Personal Ending	Complete form
-	λυ	σ	α	ι	μι	λυσαμι



1st Aorist Optative Active Examples

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	λυ <u>σαι</u> <u>μι</u>	λυ <u>σαι</u> μεν
2 nd person	λυ <u>σαι</u> ς	λυ <u>σαι</u> τε
3 rd person	λυ <u>σαι</u>	λυ <u>σαι</u> <u>εν</u>



2nd Aorist Optative Active Examples

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	βαλο <u>ι</u> <u>μι</u>	βαλο <u>ι</u> μεν
2 nd person	βαλο <u>ι</u> ς	βαλο <u>ι</u> τε
3 rd person	βαλο <u>ι</u>	βαλο <u>ι</u> <u>εν</u>



Optative (Secondary) Mid./Pass. Endings

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	-μην	-μεθα
2 nd person	-ο	-σθε
3 rd person	-το	-ντο



Present Optative Mid./Pass. Examples

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	λυοιμην	λυοιμεθα
2 nd person	λυοιο	λυοισθε
3 rd person	λυοιτο	λυοιντο



1st Aorist Optative Middle Examples

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	λυσαιμην	λυσαιμεθα
2 nd person	λυσαιο	λυσαισθε
3 rd person	λυσαιτο	λυσαιντο



2nd Aorist Optative Middle Examples

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	βαλο ^ι μην	βαλο ^ι μεθα
2 nd person	βαλο ^ι ο	βαλο ^ι σθε
3 rd person	βαλο ^ι το	βαλο ^ι ντο



Aorist Passive Endings

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	-ην	-ημεν
2 nd person	-ης	-ητε
3 rd person	-η	-ησαν



1st Aorist Passive Optative Examples

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	λυθ ^{red} ει ^{blue} ην	λυθ ^{red} ει ^{blue} ημεν
2 nd person	λυθ ^{red} ει ^{blue} ης	λυθ ^{red} ει ^{blue} ητε
3 rd person	λυθ ^{red} ει ^{blue} η	λυθ ^{red} ει ^{blue} ησαν



2nd Aorist Passive Optative Examples

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	γραφειην	γραφειημεν
2 nd person	γραφειης	γραφειητε
3 rd person	γραφειη	γραφειησαν



Present Optative of Εἶμι

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	εἶην	εἶημεν
2 nd person	εἶης	εἶητε
3 rd person	εἶη	εἶησαν



Using the Optative Mood

- Voluntative optative
 - Expressing a wish that something would (or would not) happen
- Translate with "may"
 - Μη γενοιτο! "May it never be!"
 - Δώ ἔλεος ὁ κύριος. "May the Lord give mercy."



Keep Learning

- You can learn more about the optative mood here:
 - Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek* (3rd edition)
 - Optative mood, 35.10 (pp. 330-331)
 - Wallace, *Basics of New Testament Syntax* (1st edition)
 - "Moods," optative, pp. 209-210

