The Subjunctive Mood

Hypothetically Speaking

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Mood Issues

- The category of "mood" in Greek grammar confuses two different issues
 - What kind of syntactical role does the verb play
 - (Finite verbs)
 - Infinitives
 - Participles
 - What is the relationship between the verb and reality
 - Indicative: describing reality
 - Imperative: creating reality
 - Subjunctive: describing events whose reality is uncertain
 - Optative

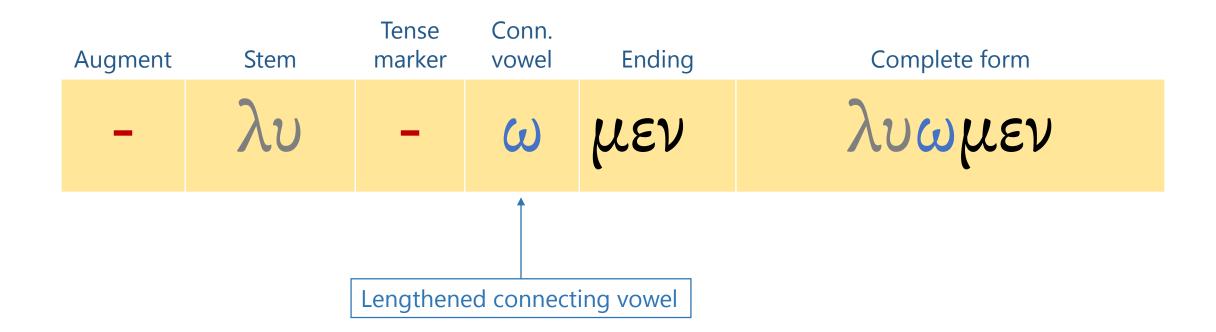


Forming Subjunctive Verbs

- There are subjunctive forms of two tenses
 - Present and Aorist
- Fortunately, they're easy to recognize if you know the indicative
 - Lengthened connecting vowel
 - No augment (in aorist)
- Same personal endings as indicative finite verbs
 - All tenses and voices use primary endings
 - So even simpler than indicative mood



Parts of a Present Subjunctive Verb





Primary Personal Endings (Active)

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	_	-μεν
2 nd person	-5	-τε
3 rd person	- L	-νσι(ν)



Present Active Subjunctive

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	λυω	λυωμεν
2 nd person	λυης	λυητε
3 rd person	λυη	λυωσι(ν)



Primary Personal Endings (Middle/Passive)

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	-μαι	-μεθα
2 nd person	-σαι	-σθε
3 rd person	-ται	-νται

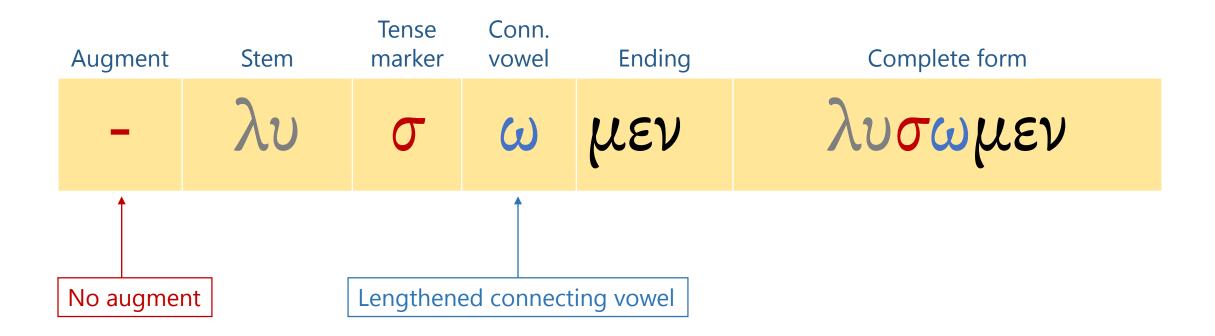


Present Middle/Passive Subjunctive

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	λυωμαι	λυωμεθα
2 nd person	λυη	λυησθε
3 rd person	λυηται	λυωνται



Parts of a First Aorist Subjunctive Verb





First Aorist Active Subjunctive

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	λυσω	λυσωμεν
2 nd person	λυσης	λυσητε
3 rd person	λυση	λυσωσι(ν)



First Aorist Middle Subjunctive

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	λυσωμαι	λυσωμεθα
2 nd person	λυση	λυσησθε
3 rd person	λυσηται	λυσωνται

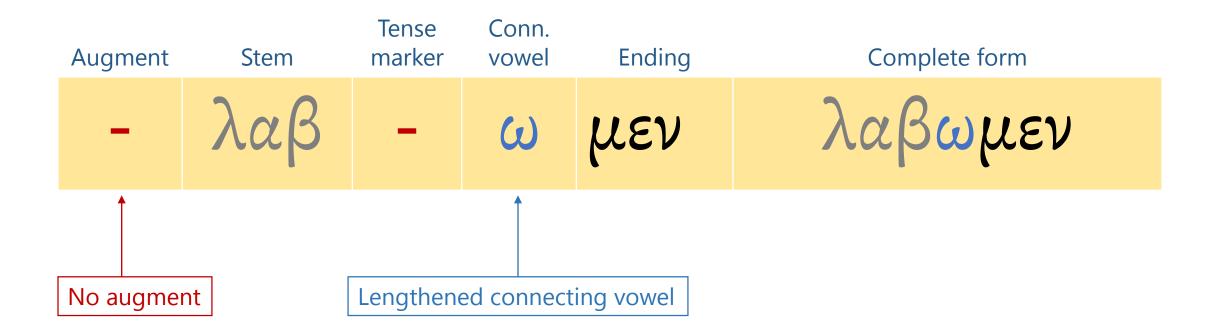


First Aorist Passive Subjunctive

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	λυθω	λυθωμεν
2 nd person	λυθης	λυθητε
3 rd person	λυθη	λυθωσι(ν)



Parts of a 2nd Aorist Subjunctive Verb





2nd Aorist Active Subjunctive

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	λαβω	λαβωμεν
2 nd person	λαβης	λαβητε
3 rd person	λαβη	λαβωσι(ν)



2nd Aorist Middle Subjunctive

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	γενωμαι	γενωμεθα
2 nd person	γενη	γενησθε
3 rd person	γενηται	γενωνται



2nd Aorist Passive Subjunctive

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	γραφω	γραφωμεν
2 nd person	γραφης	γραφητε
3 rd person	γραφη	γραφωσι(ν)



- Expressing Purpose: $i\nu\alpha$ + subjunctive
 - ίνα ("in order to, so that") almost always followed by subjunctive verb
- Examples
 - Καὶ παρετήρουν αὐτὸν ... ἵνα κατηγορήσωσιν αὐτοῦ. (Mark 3:2)
 - "Then they were watching him ... so that they could accuse him."
 - ... εἶπον ἵνα πιστεύσωσιν ὅτι σύ με ἀπέστειλας. (John 11:42)
 - "I spoke so that they might believe that you have sent me."
 - Περιπατεῖτε ἕως τὸ φῶς ἔχετε, ἵνα μὴ σκοτία ὑμᾶς καταλάβη· (John 12:35)
 - "Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness will not overcome you."



- Expressing Purpose: $i\nu\alpha$ + subjunctive
- Conditional sentences: if ... then ...
 - We'll deal with these in a separate lesson



- Expressing Purpose: $i\nu\alpha$ + subjunctive
- Conditional sentences: if ... then ...
- Hortatory subjunctive
 - A first-person plural subjunctive is used to urge one's companions to take some action.
 - Ἄγωμεν ἀλλαχοῦ εἰς τὰς ἐχομένας κωμοπόλεις, ἵνα καὶ ἐκεῖ κηρύξω· (Mark 1:38)
 - "Let us go elsewhere, to the villages nearby, so that I can preach there as well."



- Expressing Purpose: $i\nu\alpha$ + subjunctive
- Conditional sentences: if ... then ...
- Hortatory subjunctive
- Deliberative subjunctive
 - A subjunctive verb is used in questions where the answer is unclear
 - Μὴ οὖν μεριμνήσητε, λέγοντες, Τί φάγωμεν, ἢ τί πίωμεν, ἢ τί περιβαλώμεθα; (Matt 6:31)
 - "Do not worry and say "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink" or "What will we wear?"



The Subjunctive and Prohibition

- One can forbid an action using
 - οὐ + future indicative
 - μη + infinitive (present or aorist)
- One can also use $\mu\eta$ + a orist subjunctive
 - A strong, emphatic prohibition
 - Can be further strengthened with the double negative οὐ μη
 - Two negatives do not cancel each other out
 - Reinforce one another to make the denial emphatic



The Subjunctive and Prohibition

Examples

- Μὴ νομίσητε ὅτι ἦλθον καταλῦσαι τὸν νόμον ἢ τοὺς προφήτας (Matt 5:17)
 - "Do not think that I came to do away with the law or the prophets."
- Μὴ οὖν μεριμνήσητε, λέγοντες, Τί φάγωμεν, ἢ τί πίωμεν, ἢ τί περιβαλώμεθα; (Matt 6:31)
 - "Do not worry and say "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink" or "What will we wear?"
- Ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ παρελεύσονται, οἱ δὲ λόγοι μου οὐ μὴ παρέλθωσιν. (Matt 24:35)
 - "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words must not pass away."



Keep Learning

- You can learn more about the Greek subjunctive mood here:
 - Mounce, Basics of Biblical Greek (3rd edition)
 - Subjunctive mood, 31.1—22 (pp. 287—97)
 - Wallace, Basics of New Testament Syntax (1st edition)
 - "The Subjunctive mood" section in the "Moods" chapter (pp. 201-209)

