Chapter 18
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The Present Imperative
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18.1 We have learned how to use a verb to make a statement (the Indicative).
Now we will learn how to use a verb to give a command - the Imperative (Latin - "imperator" - Emperor, commander)   e.g. "Come here!" "Go away!" "Be quiet!"

18.2 The Present Stem of the Verb
The Present Stem of the verb in Greek is used not only for describing an action that is going on at the present time, but for actions that go on over a period of time (continuously), or repeatedly.
English no longer makes a clear distinction between "do something" (once) and "be doing something" (in process). So we usually translate the Present Imperative as "do something".
Greek has a way of showing if something is to be done just once - we will meet that form of the verb later.

18.3 The basic pattern for the **Second Person Present Imperative Active** is

> you (singular) (do something, be doing something)!   STEM**-ε**
> you (plural) (do something, be doing something)!   STEM**-ετε**

For λεγω, this becomes
> Say!, Speak! (one person)   λεγε
> Say!, Speak! (several people)   λεγετε

You probably noticed that the ending for the Second Person Plural Present Imperative Active is the same as that of the Second Person Plural Present Indicative Active.

The rest of the sentence usually helps us to decide how to translate a verb with an **-ετε** ending.

Contract verbs obey the rules for combining vowels which we met for the present tense
> **α + ε = α**   **ε + ε = ει   ο + ε = ου**

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1.	ἀγαπατε ἀλληλους.	Love one another!
2.	ποιειτε ταυτα.	Do these things!
3.	ἀκολουθει μοι.	Follow (after) me!
4.	ζητειτε τον κυριον.	Seek the Lord!
5.	πιστευε τῳ Ἰησου.	Believe in Jesus!
6.	προσκυνειτε τῳ θεῳ.	Worship (bow down to) God!
7.	διακονειτε τοις ἀδελφοις.	Serve (be of service to) the brothers!
8.	ὑπακουε τῳ Μεσσιᾳ.	Obey (be obedient to) the Messiah!
9.	λαμβανετε τας χηρας.	Receive the widows!
10.	διδασκετε τα τεκνια.	Teach the (little) children!

18.4 Frequently occurring Imperatives
   ἰδου (look!), **ἰδετε** (look!), **δευτε** (come!), **θαρσει** (take heart! don't be scared!)**, ὑπαγε** (go!)
ἰδου (singular), ἰδε (singular) and ἰδετε (plural) are imperatives of one of the verbs for "look, behold".
Greek is similar to English, in that "Look" may be used in the senses of "Lo and behold!" or "Look - pay attention!"
δευτε, "here", is an adverb which is used as the command "Come here!"
θαρσει (singular) and θαρσειτε (plural), "take heart", are the only forms of the verb θαρσεω (I am courageous) which are used in the New Testament.
ὑπαγε, "go, go away" is an Imperative singular of ὑπαγω, "I go away"

Practice A - ἰδου - until you can read and translate easily

1. Ἰδου ἐγω εἰμι ὁν ζητειτε.   Behold, I am he whom you seek.   *(Acts 10:21))*
2. και ἰδου ἐγω μεθ' ὑμων εἰμι . . .   Behold, I am with you . . .   *(Matt. 28:20)*
3. και ἰδου φωνη ἐκ των οὐρανων . . .   And behold, a voice from heaven . . . *(Matt. 3:17)*
4. Ἰδου ἡ δουλη του κυριου.   Behold, the servant girl of the Lord.   *(Luke 1:38)*
5. ἰδου μυστηριον ὑμιν λεγω.   Behold, I tell you a mystery.   *(1 Corinth. 15:51)*
6. Ἰδου ἐγω ἀποστελλω ὑμας   Behold, I send you (out)
     ὡς προβατα .   like sheep . . .   *(Matt. 10:16)*
7. Ἰδου ἐγω ἀποστελλω τον ἀγγελον   Behold, I send my messenger
     μου προ προσωπον σου.   before your face.   *(Matt. 11:10)*
8. ἰδου νυν ἡμερα σωτηριας.   Behold, now (is) the day of salvation.   *(2 Cor. 6:2)*
9. Ἰδου ἀναβαινομεν εἰς Ἰεροσολυμα . . .   Behold, we go up to Jerusalem . . . *(Matt. 20:18)*
10. και ὁ Πιλατος λεγει αὐτοις,   And Pilate says to them,
     Ἰδου ὁ ἀνθρωπος.   "Behold, the man."   *(see John 19:5)*

Practice B - until you can read and translate easily

1. Δευτε ἰδετε ἀνθρωπον . . .   Come, see a man . . .   *(John 4:29)*
2. Ἰδε ὁ ἀμνος του θεου . . .   Behold the Lamb of God.   *(John 1:36)*
3. και λεγει αὐτοις,   And he says to them,
     Δευτε ὀπισω μου . . .   "Come after (follow) me . . . " *(Matt. 4:19)*
4. δευτε εἰς τους γαμους.   Come to the marriage (feasts)   *(Matt. 22:4)*
5. δευτε ἰδετε τον τοπον . . .   Come, see the place . . .   *(Matt. 28:6)*
6. και ὁ Ἰησους . . . εἰπεν   And Jesus said to the paralytic,
     τω παραλυτικω, Θαρσει, τεκνον, . . .   "Take heart, lad, . . .   *(Matt. 9:2)*
7. ὁ Ἰησους λεγει αὐτοις,   Jesus says to them,
     Θαρσειτε, ἐγω εἰμι.   "Take heart, it is I."   *(see Matt. 14:27)*
8. και φωνουσιν τον τυφλον και   And they call the blind man and
     λεγουσιν αὐτω, Θαρσει, . . .   say to him,   "Take heart . .
     φωνει σε.   he is calling you."   *(see Mark 10:49)*
9. τοτε λεγει αὐτω ὁ Ἰησους,   Then Jesus says to him,
     Ὑπαγε, Σατανα.   "Go away, Satan."   *(Matt. 4:10)*
10. λεγει αὐτω, Ὑπαγε εἰς τον οἰκον σου   He says to him, "Go to your house
     προς τους σους.   and to your folks.   *(Mark 5:19)*
                (τους σους = the ones belonging to you)

18.5 Prohibitions - How to say No

Greek has several ways of saying "Don't (do something)." One way is to use a negative word with the Present Imperative, in which case the implication is "Stop (doing something)". For all parts of the verb other than the Indicative, Greek uses **μη** for "no, not". Greek uses **οὐ** for the Indicative only.

Some times it is important to make a distinction in the translation between continuous and single action - for example, in John 20:17, when Mary Magdalene meets the risen Christ, many of the English versions translate his words as "Don't touch me!" , which sounds as if he is forbidding Mary Magdalene to reach out and touch him. The Greek uses a Present Imperative with **μη** (μη μου ἁπτου - from the verb ἁπτομαι, which has a different set of endings than the -ω verbs). A better translation would be "Don't continue to touch - cling to - me.", which gives the picture of her already having thrown her arms around him.

Note : The simple prohibition "Don't (do something)", and the way of saying "Don't start (to do something)" use the Aorist tense of the verb which we will meet later.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. μη βαλλε λιθους εἰς την θαλασσαν.	Stop throwing stones into the sea.
2. μη διωκετε τους ὀφειλετας.	Stop persecuting the debtors.
3. μη διδασκε την ἀδικιαν τοις μαθηταις.	Stop teaching unrighteousness to the disciples.
4. μη βλασφημειτε τον θεον.	Stop blaspheming God.
5. μη ζητει την ὁδον της ἁμαρτιας.	Stop seeking the way of sin.
6. μη ἀγαπατε τον κοσμον.	Stop loving the world.
7. μη πλανα τα παιδια.	Stop leading the children astray.
8. μη ποιειτε ταυτα τα ἐργα τα κακα.	Stop doing these bad things.
9. μη τηρει το ἀργυριον.	Stop holding on to the money.
10. μη κλαιετε.	Stop weeping.

NOTE : Sections 18.6 and 18.7 may be postponed until later in the course.

18.6 Third Person Present Imperative Active

Modern English only uses Second Person Imperatives, "You - do something!" and "Y'all - do something!".
Greek also uses Third Person Imperatives, "Let him - do something!" and "Let them - do something!" with
the sense of a command rather than mere permission to do something - "He must do something".

The basic pattern for the Third Person Present Imperative Active is

Let him/her/it, He/she/it must (do something, be doing something)!   STEM-**ετω**
Let them, They must (do something, be doing something)!   STEM-**ετωσαν**

For λεγω, this becomes

Let him/her/it speak! He must speak!	λεγετω
Let them speak! They must speak!	λεγετωσαν

Contract verbs follow the rules of contraction, α + ε = α   ε + ε = ει   ο + ε = ου

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. λεγετωσαν την ἀληθειαν.	Let them speak the truth.
2. ἀγαπατω τους ἀδελφους.	Let him love the brothers.
3. ἀκολουθειτωσαν τῳ Ἰησου.	Let them follow Jesus.
4. μη ποιειτω τα κακα.	Let him stop doing (the) bad (things).
5. μη διακονειτωσαν τῳ πονηρῳ.	Let them stop serving the evil (one).
6. ἐγγιζετω τῳ ἁγιῳ ἱερῳ.	Let him approach the holy temple.
7. προσκυνειτωσαν οἱ ἁγιοι τῳ θεῳ.	Let the saints worship God.
8. ὑπακουετω ὁ δουλος τῳ κυριῳ αὐτου.	Let the slave obey his master.
9. μη ἀκολουθειτωσαν τῳ διαβολῳ	Let them neither follow the devil
μηδε ὑπακουετωσαν αὐτῳ.	nor obey him.
10. διακονειτω ὁ μαθητης τῳ θεῳ	Let the disciple serve God
και ὑπακουετω αὐτῳ.	and obey Him.

18.7 Imperatives of εἰμι

The Imperatives of εἰμι are given here for reference, but you will not find many examples in the GNT.
Greek usually uses Imperatives from another verb (γινομαι - I become) instead of Imperatives of εἰμι.

You (singular) be!	ἰσθι	*(note the iota)*
You (plural) be!	ἐστε	
Let him/her/it be!	ἐστω	
Let them be!	ἐστωσαν	

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

1. ἐστω δε ὁ λογος ὑμων ναι ναι, οὐ, οὐ.   Let your word be yes - Yes, no - No. *(Matt. 5:37)*
2. διακονοι ἐστωσαν πιστοι.   Let the deacons be faithful.
3. ὁ ἀγγελος λεγει τῳ Ἰωσηφ,   The angel says to Joseph,
       Φευγε εἰς Αἰγυπτον και ἰσθι ἐκει.   "Flee (in)to Egypt and be (stay) there."
                                                                (see Matt. 2:13)
4. ὑπαγε εἰς εἰρηνην, και ἰσθι ὑγιης . . .   Go in peace, and be healed . . *(see Mark 5:34)*

18.8 Sentences for reading and translation

1. ὁ Ἰωαννης εἰπεν τοις μαθηταις, Μη πιστευετε τοις δαιμονιοις.
2. οἱ ἁγιοι λεγουσιν τοις Ἰουδαιοις,
       Πιστευετε τῳ Ἰησου και μη περιπατειτε ἐν τη ὁδῳ της ἀδικιας.
3. αὐτος εἰπεν αὐτοις, Αἰτειτε και ζητειτε.
4. ὁ Παυλος λεγει ταις ἐκκλησιαις, Ἀγαπατε τους ἀδελφους ὑμων.
5. μη ποιειτε τα ἐργα του πονηρου, ἀκολουθειτε δε τῳ Χριστῳ.
6. μη ἀγαπατε τον κοσμον μηδε τα ἐν τῳ κοσμῳ.   *(1 John 2:15)*
7. και λεγει αὐτῳ ὁ Ἰησους, Ἀκολουθει μοι.   *(John 1:43)*
8. Οὑτος ἐστιν ὁ υἱος μου ὁ ἀγαπητος, ἀκουετε αὐτου.   *(Mark 9:7)*
9. ἐγω δε λεγω ὑμιν, ἀγαπατε τους ἐχθρους ὑμων.   *(Matt. 5:44)*
10. ζητειτε δε πρωτον την βασιλειαν του θεου
        και την δικαιοσυνην αὐτου.   *(Matt. 6:33)*

18.9 Writing Practice - Write the Greek text several times, while saying aloud   (John 1:1)

    Ἐν ἀρχῃ ἠν ὁ λογος,   In (the) beginning was the Word
        και ὁ λογος ἠν προς τον θεον,   and the Word was with God

18.10 New Testament Passages for reading and translation

Matthew 6:19-21,   I Thessalonians 5:16-22

In your Greek New Testament, read the passages aloud several times until you can read them without long pauses or stumbling. Then use the helps to translate them.

θησαυριζετε	store up!	*(Imperative of* θησαυριζω *- I store up,* ὁ θησαυρος *- storehouse)*
σης	a moth	
βρωσις	rust, eating	
ἀφανιζει	(it) ruins, destroys	*(from* ἀφανιζω *- I destroy)*
διορυσσουσιν	(they) break through	*(from* διορυσσω *- I dig through)*
ἐσται	(it) will be	*(future tense of* εἰμι *)*
ἀδιαλειπτως	without pause, unceasingly	
προσευχεσθε	pray!	*(Imperative of* προσευχομαι *- I pray)*
παντι	in every thing	

    (Neuter Dative singular of πας, πασα, παν *- each, every, all. Note the -ι ending for the Dative)*

εἰς ὑμας	for you	
σβεννυτε	quench	*(Imperative of* σβεννυμι *- I extinguish, restrain)*
προφητειας	prophecies	*(Accusative plural of* ἡ προφητεια *- prophecy)*
ἐξουθενειτε	despise, treat with contempt	*(Imperative of* ἐξουθενεω *- I despise)*
παντα	all things, everything	

  (Neuter Nom./Acc. plural of πας, πασα, παν *- every, all. Note the -α ending for Neuter Nom/Acc plural)*

ἀπο παντος	from every	*(* παντος *- Gen. sing. of* πας, πασα, παν *- each, every, all)*
εἰδους	appearance	*(Genitive singular of* το εἰδος *- outward appearance, form)*
ἀπεχεσθε	abstain from, get away from!	*(from* ἀπεχω *)*

18.11 Vocabulary to learn

NOTE : The Verbs in the first section of this Vocabulary take the Dative rather than the Accusative.
It is best to learn them in a form which sets us up to expect a Dative.

ἀκολουθέω	I follow after	*(takes Dative)*	

(an acolyte follows the leader of a worship Service)

διακονέω	I am of service to, I serve	*(takes Dative)*	*(ὁ διακονος - servant)*
ἐγγίζω	I draw near to, I approach	*(takes Dative)*	*(ἐγγυς - near)*
ἔξεστιν	It is lawful to . . . , it is allowed . .	*(takes Dative)*	
ἐπιτιμάω	I give a command to, I order	*(takes Dative)*	
μαρτυρέω	I bear witness to	*(takes Dative)*	

(the martyrs were willing to die for their witness to Christ)

παραγγέλλω	I give a command to, I order strictly	*(takes Dative)*	
πιστεύω	I trust in, I believe in	*(takes Dative)*	*(πιστος - faithful)*
προσκυνέω	I bow down before, I worship	*(takes Dative)*	
ὑπακούω	I am subject to, I obey	*(takes Dative)*	*(from ὑπο + ἀκουω)*

The following verbs do not take a Dative

δοκιμάζω	I test, I examine, I discern	
εὐχαριστέω	I give thanks	*(hence "Eucharist")*

(in modern Greek, one says εὐχαριστῶ - pronounced eff-harr-EES-toe - for "thank you")

θαρσέω	I take courage	*(in the New Testament, used only as the Imperative - θαρσει)*
ἴδε, ἴδετε, ἰδού	Look!, Behold! Lo!	
κατέχω	I hold fast, I keep, I possess	*(from κατα + ἐχω - I have)*
κλέπτω	I steal	*(ὁ κλεπτης - thief. Hence "kleptomaniac")*
ὑπάγω	I go away	*(from ὑπο + ἀγω - I lead)*
φεύγω	I flee	*(hence fugitive)*
χαίρω	I rejoice	

μή	no, not	*(used with verbs in any form other than the Indicative)*
μηδέ	neither, nor	*(μη + δε, used with verbs in any form other than the Indicative)*
οὐδέ . . οὐδέ	neither . . nor	*(οὐ + δε, used with verbs in the Indicative)*
οὔτε . . οὔτε	neither . . nor	*(οὐ + τε, used with verbs in the Indicative)*
οὐχί	certainly not	

(used with verbs in the Indicative, also used with questions when one expects the answer "Yes")

οὐ μή	NO, NOT	*(emphatic negative)*
τέ	and, so	*(less strong than και, sometimes better not translated, as for δε)*
τέ . . τέ, τέ . . δέ	both . . and, not only . . but also	
ἐκεῖ	there	
ὅπου	where	
ποῦ ;	where? whither?	
πάντοτε	at all times, always	*(from πας, πασα, παν - each, all, every + τοτε - then)*
ὀπίσω	after, behind	*(Adverb, or Preposition taking Genitive)*

ὁ αἰών	age, aeon	*(do not attempt to use other cases yet)*
ὁ ἀμνός	lamb	

ὑγιής	healthy, whole, sound	*(hence "hygiene" and related words)*