

Chapter 21

The Present Subjunctive

21.1 So far we have dealt with definite statements and questions, for which we use a verb in the Indicative mood. Now we learn how to express some element of doubt, for which the verb is in the Subjunctive or Conditional mood. The Subjunctive is used to express a doubt, a condition, a wish, or a purpose - anything which is not a definite fact.

The English way of expressing doubt is to use an auxiliary verb such as "may", "might", "would", "should". English colloquial speech no longer makes much distinction between definite and doubtful statements. We tend to say "If it rains . . ." rather than "If it should rain . . ."

Greek is much simpler - the initial vowels of the personal endings of the verb are broadened if they are short, and the iota drops down to a iota subscript (except for -όω verbs).

21.2 The basic pattern for the **Present Subjunctive Active** is

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|----------------|---------|-----------|-------|
| I | STEM-ω | STEM-ωμεν | we |
| you (singular) | STEM-ης | STEM-ητε | y'all |
| he/she/it | STEM-η | STEM-ωσιν | they |

For λέγω, the contract verbs, and εἰμί this becomes

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|----------|---------|-----------|------|
| | λέγω | ἀγαπάω | ποιέω | φανερόω | εἰμί |
| | I say | I love | I do | I reveal | I am |
| I may (say, etc) | λέγω | ἀγαπῶ | ποιῶ | φανερῶ | ῶ |
| you may . . . | λέγῃς | ἀγαπᾷς | ποιῆς | φανεροῖς | ῆς |
| he/she/it may . . . | λέγῃ | ἀγαπᾷ | ποιῆ | φανεροῖ | ῆ |
| we may . . . | λέγωμεν | ἀγαπῶμεν | ποιῶμεν | φανερῶμεν | ῶμεν |
| y'all may . . . | λέγητε | ἀγαπᾶτε | ποιῆτε | φανερῶτε | ῆτε |
| they may . . . | λέγωσιν | ἀγαπῶσιν | ποιῶσιν | φανερῶσιν | ῶσιν |

21.3 Words which introduce the Subjunctive

Words which express doubt are usually followed by a subjunctive.

They are often the main clue that we should look for a verb in the subjunctive.

- ἐάν** (pronounced eh-AN) - if, or "even if" e.g. "If it should rain . . ." - It may not rain.
ἐάν μῆ - unless e.g. "Unless it rains . . ." - It may not rain.
ἕως ἄν - until (indefinite) e.g. ". . . until I find it." - I don't know when, or I might not find it.
ὅς ἄν - whoever e.g. "Whoever does this . . ." - We don't know that anyone will do it.
ὅπως ἄν - in order that e.g. "I worked hard, in order to get an A." - but I might not get an "A"
ὅταν - whenever e.g. "Whenever you go . . ." - We don't know when.

In all the examples above, there is the "particle" **ἄν**.

ἄν by itself is not strong enough to count as a word, but it gives an element of doubt to the sentence.

ἐάν is formed from **εἰ** - "if" and **ἄν**.

ὅς ἄν uses the Relative Pronoun, which is declined. So "whatever" is **ὅ ἄν**

See chapter 15 for the declension of the Relative Pronoun.

Another word which may introduce a subjunctive is

ἵνα - so that, in order that - used exactly like **ὅπως**

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

- ἐάν λέγῃς ὅτι σὺ τὸν θεὸν ἀγαπᾷ,
καὶ ἀδικῆς, ψεύστης εἶ. If you (should) say that you love God,
and do wrong, you are a liar.
- ὅταν ἀσθενῶ, ὁ κύριός με οἰκοδομεῖ. Whenever I am weak, the Lord
strengthens me / builds me up.

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| 3. κηρύσσω τὸ εὐαγγέλιον ἵνα καὶ ὑμεῖς ἔχητε ζωὴν αἰώνιον. | I preach the Gospel so that you also may have eternal life. |
| 4. ὃς ἂν δοκῆ ὅτι ἡ καινὴ διαθήκη οὐκ ἀγαθὸς ἐστίν, τὴν ἀλήθειαν οὐ γινώσκει. | Whoever supposes that the New Testament is not good, does not know the truth. |
| 5. ἐὰν λαμβάνητε τὰς ἀδελφὰς ἡμῶν, λαμβάνετε ἡμᾶς. | If you receive our sisters, you receive us. |
| 6. ζητεῖτε καὶ αἰτεῖτε ἕως ἂν βλέπητε τὸν κύριον. | Seek and ask until you see the Lord. |
| 7. ἐὰν νικῶμεν, νικῶμεν ἐν Χριστῷ. | If we conquer, we conquer in Christ. |
| 8. ποιεῖτε τὰ καλὰ ὅπως ἂν οἱ λαοὶ ὀρώσιν καὶ εὐλογῶσιν τὸν θεόν. | Do good (things) so that the people(s) may see and may praise God. |
| 9. ἐὰν ἐλεῶμεν τοὺς ἀνθρώπους αὐτοὶ τιμῶσιν ἡμᾶς. | If we are merciful to the men, they respect us. |
| 10. ὁ Παῦλος κηρύσσει τὸ εὐαγγέλιον ἵνα μετανῶμεν καὶ πιστεύωμεν τῷ Ἰησοῦ. | Paul preaches the Gospel so that we might repent and trust in Jesus. |

21.4 Negation : μή is used with the Subjunctive. Remember - οὐ is only used with the Indicative.

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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| 1. ὁ πρεσβύτερός με ἐπιτιμᾷ ἵνα μὴ ἀμαρτάνω. | The elder warns me that I should not sin. |
| 2. ἐάν μὴ ὁ Ἰησοῦς με σφῶζῃ ἀποθνήσκω. | Unless Jesus saves me, I die. |
| 3. ποιοῦμεν τοῦτο ἵνα μὴ δουλεύητε τοῖς δαιμονίοις. | We do this so that you might not serve the demons. |
| 4. ὁ κριτὴς ἐπιτιμᾷ σε ἵνα μὴ κλέπτῃς. | The judge warns you that you should not steal. |
| 5. ὃς ἂν μὴ ἀγαπᾷ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς οὐκ ἀγαπᾷ τὸν κύριον. | Whoever does not love the brothers, does not love the Lord. |
| 6. ἐὰν ἐγὼ μὴ μετανοιῶ, ἀποθνήσκω. | Unless I repent, I (might) die. |
| 7. ταῦτα ποιοῦσιν ὅπως ἂν ὑμεῖς μὴ ἀδικήτε. | They do these things so that you might not do wrong. |
| 8. ἡμεῖς τοῦτο οὐ ποιοῦμεν ἵνα σὺ μὴ ἀποθνήσκῃς. | We do not do this, so that you might not die. |
| 9. ὃς ἂν μὴ μετανοῇ οὐκ ἔστιν μαθητὴς τοῦ Ἰησοῦ. | Whoever does not repent, is not a disciple of Jesus. |
| 10. οἱ ἀπόστολοι ἐπιτιμῶσιν ἡμᾶς ἵνα ὁ διάβολος ἡμᾶς μὴ δουλοῖ. | The apostles warn us so that the devil should not enslave us. |

21.5 The Hortatory Subjunctive : let's, let us

The subjunctive is used to express a deliberative wish - which may, or may not, be fulfilled.

A student may say "Let's goof off." But the other students may say "Let's do our homework."

Hopefully the voice of reason will prevail, but the outcome is in doubt.

For this construction, Greek uses the first person plural of the subjunctive : "Let us (do something)."

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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| 1. δουλεύωμεν τῷ Ἰησοῦ. | Let us serve Jesus. |
| 2. δοξάζωμεν τὸν θεόν. | Let us glorify God. |
| 3. εὐλογῶμεν τὸν Χριστόν. | Let us bless Christ. |
| 4. εὐχαριστῶμεν τῷ θεῷ. | Let us give thanks to God. |
| 5. μὴ κλέπτωμεν ἀλλὰ ποιῶμεν τὰ καλά. | Let us not steal, but let us do good (things). |
| 6. περισσεύωμεν ἐν τῇ ἀγάπῃ. | Let us abound in love. |
| 7. παρακαλῶμεν ἀλλήλους καὶ μὴ κρίνωμεν ἀλλήλους. | Let us encourage one another and let us not judge one another. |
| 8. μὴ κλέπτωμεν μηδὲ ποιῶμεν τὰ κακά. | Let us neither steal nor do bad (things). |
| 9. ἐλεῶμεν τοὺς δεσμοίους. | Let us be merciful to the prisoners. |

10. μὴ ἀδικῶμεν ἵνα οἱ λαοὶ
δοξάζωσιν τὸν θεόν.

Let us not do wrong, so that the people(s)
may glorify God.

NOTE : Section 21.6 may be postponed until later in the course

21.6 The Dinosaur Verbs

The majority of verbs in the Greek New Testament are of the -ω family, for which the First Person Singular of the Present Indicative Active ends in -ω.

There are, however, about half a dozen verbs which retain an ancient form, which uses a -μι ending for the First Person Singular Indicative Active.

Although they use different endings in the Present Indicative Active, for the Present Subjunctive Active they use the same endings as the regular -ω verbs, so we will introduce them here and start using them.

We have in fact already met one of the "Dinosaurs" - εἰμί - I am. The others in this family are :

| Present Indicative Active | | Present Subjunctive Active | |
|---------------------------|----------|----------------------------|------------------|
| I destroy | ἀπόλλυμι | ἀπολέσω | I may destroy |
| I forgive | ἀφίημι | ἀφῶ | I may forgive |
| I show, indicate | δείκνυμι | δεικνύω | I may show |
| I give | δίδωμι | διδῶ | I may give |
| I stand, cause to stand | ἵστημι | ίστῶ | I may stand |
| I put, place | τίθημι | τιθῶ | I may put, place |
| I say | φημί | φῶ | I may say |

Practice - until you can read and translate easily

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|---|---|
| 1. οἱ Φαρισαῖοι ζητοῦσιν πῶς αὐτὸν ἀπολέσωσιν. | The Pharisees are seeking how they might destroy him. |
| 2. ἐὰν δὲ ἀφῆτε τοὺς ἐχθροὺς ὑμῶν ποιεῖτε ἔργον καλόν. | If you forgive your enemies, you do a good work. |
| 3. διδῶμεν ἢ μὴ διδῶμεν ; | Should we give, or should we not give? |
| 4. ἐὰν δίδῶ τὸν ἀργύριόν μου τοῖς πτωχοῖς, ἀγάπην δὲ μὴ ἔχω, ὑποκριτῆς εἰμί. | If I should give my money to the poor, but do not have love, I am a hypocrite. |
| 5. δεικνύωμεν τὰ βιβλία ταῦτα ταῖς ἀδελφαῖς. | Let us show these books to the sisters. |
| 6. ἰστῶμεν ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ καὶ προσκυνῶμεν τὸν θεόν. | Let us stand in the temple and (let us) worship God. |
| 7. τιθῶμεν τοὺς λόγους τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ἡμῶν. | Let us put the words of God in our hearts. |
| 8. ἐὰν φῶ ὅτι ἀγαπῶ τὸν θεὸν καὶ τὸν ἀδελφόν μου μισῶ, ψεύστης εἰμί. | If I should say that I love God, and hate my brother, I am a liar. |

21.7 Sentences for reading and translation

1. ἐὰν ἀγαπῶσιν τὸν κόσμον, οὐκ ἐστὶν ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν αὐτοῖς.
2. ὁ ἐὰν αἰτῶμεν λαμβάνομεν ἀπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ, ὅτι τὰς ἐντολάς αὐτοῦ τηροῦμεν.
3. αὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ ἐντολὴ αὐτοῦ, ἵνα πιστεύωμεν τῷ Ἰησοῦ Χριστῷ,
καὶ ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους.
4. ἐὰν λέγωμεν ὅτι Ἀγαπῶμεν τὸν θεόν, καὶ τὸν ἀδελφὸν μισοῦμεν, ψεῦσται ἐσμέν
καὶ ἡ ἀλήθεια ἐν ἡμῖν οὐκ ἐστίν.
5. ὃς ἂν μὴ λαμβάνῃ τὸν ἄγγελον τοῦ κυρίου οὐ λαμβάνει τὸν κύριον.
6. πιστεύωμεν τῷ Ἰησοῦ Χριστῷ καὶ εὐχαριστοῦμεν τῷ θεῷ.
7. ὃς ἂν πιστεύῃ τῷ Ἰησοῦ λαμβάνει τὴν ζωὴν τὴν αἰώνιον.
8. ὁ Ἰωάννης γράφει, Ἀγαπητοί, ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους,
ὅτι ἡ ἀγάπη ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐστίν.

(see 1 John 4:7)

9. ὁ Ἰωάννης γράφει, Τεκνία, μὴ ἀγαπῶμεν λόγῳ μὴδὲ τῆ γλώσσει
ἀλλὰ ἐν ἔργῳ καὶ ἀληθείᾳ. (see 1 John 3:18)
10. ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν, Ὑμεῖς ἐμοὶ μαθηταὶ ἐστε, ἐὰν ἀγάπην ἔχητε ἐν ἀλλήλοις.
(see John 13:35)

21.8 Writing Practice : Write the Greek text, while saying aloud (John 1:1-3)

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| Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, | In (the) beginning was the Word |
| καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, | and the Word was with God |
| καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος. | and the Word was God. |
| οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν θεόν. | He (this one) was in the beginning with God. |
| πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, | all (things) happened (came into being) through him, |
| Because "all things" is a third person neuter plural, the verb uses a past singular ending, which in this case is -ΕΤΟ | |

21.9 New Testament Passage for reading and translation : 1 John 2:1-6

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

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|----------------------------|--|
| παράκλητον | Accusative of ὁ παράκλητος - advocate, helper |
| πρὸς τὸν πατέρα | with the father (πατέρα is the Accusative of ὁ πατήρ - father) |
| ὁ ἰλασμός | propitiation - means by which sins are forgiven |
| μόνον | only (neuter nominative singular of μόνος -η -ον, used as an adverb) |
| περὶ ὅλου τοῦ κόσμου | for (those) of all the world |
| ἐγνώκαμεν | we have known (and still know) (perfect tense of γινώσκω - I know) |
| ἔγνωκα | I have known (and still know) (perfect tense of γινώσκω - I know) |
| τετελείεται | (it) has been (and is) completed (perfect passive of τελειόω - I complete) |
| ὁ λέγων ἐν αὐτῷ μένειν | the one claiming to remain in Him |
| περιπάτησεν | (he) walked, behaved (a past tense of περιπατέω - I walk, behave) |
| καὶ αὐτὸς οὕτως περιπατεῖν | he also (ought) to walk likewise |

21.10 Vocabulary to learn

| | | |
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| ἀδικέω | I do wrong, harm, am guilty | (ἄδικος -ος -ον - unrighteous) |
| ἁμαρτάνω | I sin | (ἡ ἁμαρτία - sin) |
| ἀποθνήσκω | I die, face death (ἀπό + θνήσκω, θνήσκω is used less than ἀποθνήσκω) | |
| ἀσθενέω | I am weak, ill | |
| δοκέω | I think, consider, suppose, seem (Docetism taught that Christ only seemed to die) | |
| δοξάζω | I glorify, praise | (ἡ δόξα - glory. Hence doxology) |
| δουλεύω | I serve, am a slave to | (takes Dative, ὁ δοῦλος - slave) |
| δουλόω | I enslave, make someone a slave | |
| εὐλογέω | I ask a blessing on, ask God's blessing on food | (εὖ - well) |
| εὐλογέω | (with God or Christ as the subject) - bless | |
| εὐλογέω | (with God or Christ as the object) - I praise | |
| εὐχαριστέω | I thank, give thanks to | (takes Dative) |
| (the Eucharist is the service in which we give thanks for Christ's atoning death and resurrection) | | |
| (Modern Greek uses εὐχαριστέω, pronounced "eff-Harry's-TOE", for "thank you") | | |
| θνήσκω | I die | (ὁ θάνατος - death. Hence euthanasia) |
| κλέπτω | I steal | (ὁ κλέπτης - thief. Hence kleptomaniac) |
| κρίνω | I judge | (ὁ κριτής - judge) |
| μετανοέω | I repent, change my way of thinking | (from νοέω - I think) |
| νικάω | I conquer, overcome | (Νίκη was the goddess of Victory) |
| νοέω | I understand, perceive, consider | |
| ὁράω | I see | (the horizon is as far as we can see) |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| περισσεύω | I abound, exceed | |
| σώζω | I save, preserve | (ἡ σωτηρία - salvation) |
| τιμάω | I honor, revere | (Τιμόθεος - "he honors God") |
| χαίρω | I rejoice | (ἡ χαρά - joy) |
| ἀπόλλυμι | I destroy | |
| <i>(Appollyon - Destroyer - was one of the names for the devil which Milton used in his poem "Paradise Lost")</i> | | |
| ἀφίημι | I forgive, remit, allow | (from ἀπό + ἵημι - I send) |
| δείκνυμι | I show, indicate | (hence "indicate") |
| δίδωμι | I give | (there is a shorter stem δο- hence donation, donor) |
| ἵστημι | I stand, cause to stand | (there is a shorter stem στα- hence stand, station) |
| τίθημι | I put, place | |
| φημί | I say | (hence "fame") |
| ἀληθῶς | truly | (ἡ ἀλήθεια - truth, ἀληθής - true) |
| καθώς | just as | |
| οὕτως | thus, this way | (adverb, from the adjective οὕτως - this [one]) |
| ἄν | <i>(particle) indicates doubt - do not translate</i> | |
| ἐάν | if, even if | (pronounce eh-AN, from εἰ + ἄν) |
| ἐάν μή | unless | |
| ἵνα | so that, in order that, that (introducing indirect statement) | |
| ὅπως, ὅπως ἄν | in order that | (see the dictionary for other meanings of ὅπως) |
| ὅς ἄν | whoever | (Relative Pronoun + ἄν) |
| ὃ ἄν | whatever | |
| ὅταν | whenever | (ὅτε + ἄν) |
| ὅτε | when | |
| τις | anyone, someone (Masculine and Feminine Nominative. Note - no accent) | |
| τίς ; | who? (Masc. and Fem. Nom. Note the accent - the voice rises in a question) | |