

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Imperatives & Optatives

Chapter 23

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Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
ὁ λόγος

Morphology & Paradigms

Imperatives & Tenses

An imperative can be a **command** (“Read this chapter!”), a **prohibition** (“Don’t read this chapter!”), or a **request** (“Please read this chapter.”).

It occurs almost exclusively in the **present** and **aorist** tense-forms. There are no imperfect, future, or pluperfect forms and only 2 perfects.

There is **no 1st person** imperative because it is not normal to command yourself to do something.

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Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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Present Active Imperative

	Singular	Plural
2 nd Person	λύε	λύετε
3 rd Person	λύέτω	λύέτωσαν

λύε = “loose” λύετε = “loose”
 λύέτω = “let him/her loose” λύέτωσαν = “let them loose”

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Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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Present Mid/Pass Imperative

	Singular	Plural
2 nd Person	λύου	λύεσθε
3 rd Person	λύέσθω	λύέσθωσαν

λύου = “be loosed” λύεσθε = “be loosed”
 λύέσθω = “let him/her be loosed” λύέσθωσαν = “let them be loosed”

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Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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Aorist Active Imperative

	Singular	Plural
2 nd Person	λύσον	λύσατε
3 rd Person	λυσάτω	λυσάτωσαν

λύσον = “loose” λύσατε = “loose”
 λυσάτω = “let him/her loose” λυσάτωσαν = “let them loose”

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Aorist Middle Imperative

	Singular	Plural
2 nd Person	λύσαι	λύσασθε
3 rd Person	λυσάσθω	λυσάσθωσαν

λύσαι = “loose (for) yourself” λύσασθε = “loose (for) yourselves”
 λυσάσθω = “let him loose (for) himself” λυσάσθωσαν = “let them loose (for) themselves”

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Aorist Passive

Imperative

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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	Singular	Plural
2 nd Person	λύθητι	λύθητε
3 rd Person	λυθήτω	λυθήτωσαν

<p>λύθητι = "be loosed"</p> <p>λυθήτω = "let him/her be loosed"</p>	<p>λύθητε = "be loosed"</p> <p>λυθήτωσαν = "let them be loosed"</p>
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Imperative Endings					
	<div>Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος</div>				
	Active Endings		Mid/Pass Endings		
Person	Sg	Pl	Sg	Pl	
2 nd	-	-τε	-	-σθε	
3 rd	-τω	-τωσαν	-σθω	-σθωσαν	

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Uses of Imperatives	
	<div>Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος</div>
1) Command	
<div>διώκετε τὴν ἀγάπην</div> <div>"[You all] Pursue love"</div>	
<div>ὅς ἔχει ὦτα ἀκούειν ἀκουέτω</div> <div>"The one who has ears to hear, let him hear!"</div>	

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Uses of Imperatives	
	<div>Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος</div>
2) Prohibition	
<div>μὴ ἀγαπᾶτε τὸν κόσμον</div> <div>"Do not love the world"</div>	
<div>μὴ γίνεσθε ὡς οἱ ὑποκριταί</div> <div>"Do not be as the hypocrites"</div>	

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Uses of Imperatives	
	<div>Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος</div>
3) Request	
<div>ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου· γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου</div> <div>"Let your kingdom come. Let your will be done"</div>	
<div>εἴ τι δύνη, βοήθησον ἡμῖν</div> <div>"If you can do anything, please help us"</div>	

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Subjunctives as Imperatives	
	<div>Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος</div>
1) Hortatory Subjunctive	
<div>Because there is no first person imperative form, the first person plural subjunctive is used to exhort a group that includes the speaker.</div> <div>ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους</div> <div>"Let us love one another"</div> <div>No introductory conjunction is used (such as ἵνα, ἄν, or ἐάν).</div>	

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Subjunctives
as Imperatives

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2) Prohibitory Subjunctive

With the negative **μή**, the present imperative prohibits an action. The **aorist imperative**, however, is not used. Instead, the 2nd person aorist subjunctive is used.

Present	λυέ (loose)	μή λυέ (don't loose)
Aorist	λύσον (loose)	μή λύσης (don't loose)

The last form given is not **μή λύσον** (aorist imperative).

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Subjunctives
as Imperatives

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2) Prohibitory Subjunctive

καὶ **μή** εἰσενέγκῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς πειρασμόν

“And **do not lead** us into temptation”

μή φονεύσῃς ... **μή** κλέψῃς **μή** ψευδομαρτυρήσῃς

“**Do not murder ... Do not steal, Do not bear false witness**”

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Imperatives &
Verbal Aspect

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Imperatives: Tense & Aspect

The tense-form (pres or aor) does not convey the time of the action.

Aorist	Perfective aspect: portrays the action from an external perspective viewing the action as a whole, without focusing on the unfolding internal details.
Present	Imperfective aspect: portrays the action from an internal perspective viewing the action as a process without focusing on the end of the action.

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Imperatives &
Verbal Aspect

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Aorist Imperatives

Often used to give a command that is to be obeyed on a **specific occasion**.

κατὰ τὸν νόμον ὑμῶν **κρίνατε** αὐτόν

“You **judge** him according to your law”

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Imperatives &
Verbal Aspect

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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Present Imperatives

Often used to give a command that is to be obeyed as a **general practice**.

μή κρίνετε ἵνα **μή**κριθῇτε

“Do not **go around judging** (others), then you will in no way be judged”

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Optative Mood

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Moods in Greek

So far we have studied 3 other moods (not including participles, and infinitives).

Indicative	statement	λύω, “I am loosing”
Subjunctive	indefinite	λύῃ, “he might loose”
Imperative	command	λύε, “loose”

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Optative Mood

Optative Mood

There are only **68** occurrences in the NT (45 aorists and 23 presents)—mostly in Luke and Paul. Although it was fairly common in classical Greek, it was passing out of use by NT times.

The most common use of the optative mood is the **volitive** which is used to express a wish.

Optative **wish** "I wish I had known her"

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Optative Mood

Optative Mood

The two most common forms of the optative mood:

γένοιτο **γίνομαι** A M Opt 3 sg (17x)
εἴη **εἰμί** P A Opt 3 sg (12x)

The most famous is Paul's use of **μὴ γένοιτο** ("may it never be") used 14 times (and once by Luke).

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Optative Mood

Benediction/Prayer

ἔλεος ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη καὶ ἀγάπη **πληθυνθεῖη**
"May mercy, peace, and love **be multiplied** to you"

Abhorrence

ὁ νόμος ἁμαρτία; **μὴ γένοιτο**
"Is the law sin? **May it never be!**"

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Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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Vocabulary

ἀνίστημι, I stand up, arise (Anastasia)
ἀποδίδωμι, I give back, pay
ἀπόλλυμι, I destroy, am lost (mid) (Apollyon)
ἀφίημι, I forgive, let go, divorce
δίδωμι, I give (donation)

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Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν
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Vocabulary

ἵστημι, I stand, set (stand)
παραδίδωμι, I hand over, betray, entrust
τίθημι, I put, place, appoint
φημί, I say, affirm (prophet)
ἁμαρτωλός, -όν, sinful, sinner (subst)

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Vocabulary

γενεά, -ᾶς, ἡ, generation, family (generation)
μικρός, -ά, -όν, small (microphone, micrometer)
ὁμοίος, -α, -ον, same nature, similar
ἄχρι, until
οὐαί, woe

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