



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

New material in RG 14

Intensive Greek 2

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



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New material

- The main focus in RG 14 is the subjunctive mood
- One of the key points is form recognition...
- ...because RG 14 covers only specific uses of the subjunctive
- In the interest of full disclosure, this presentation looks ahead to other uses of the subjunctive that you will encounter in unadapted Greek texts
- ...but as part of Intensive 2, you are not expected to actively master these!

Forms of the subjunctive

- Endings for the subjunctive are consistent across tenses as set on in RG 274
- The long binding vowel before the person ending is the tell-tale sign (παύωμεν, παυώμεθα etc)
- Subjunctive forms occur:
 - present: active, middle, passive
 - aorist: active, middle, passive
 - perfect: active, middle, passive
- There is no future subjunctive

The mood subjunctive

- Broadly speaking, the Greek subjunctive is used either
 - to express a person's desires or wishes, or
 - to indicate that an action lies in the future
- In these functions, the subjunctive is close to both the future indicative, the optative, and the imperative
- There are relatively few occasions where a subjunctive will be the only option

Clean subjunctives in main clauses

- We have covered imperative and optative as means to express commands or wishes of varying degrees of politeness
 - Both 2nd person imperatives, but also 3rd person imperatives (RG 206)
 - RG 213 on 'clean' optative
- The subjunctive complements these by being used in 1st person (mostly plural) to cover phrases like 'let us go' (hortative) or 'let us not go' (prohibitive)

Subjunctives in subclauses I

- The subjunctive is most frequently used in independent clauses
- It is needed in purpose clauses (RG 399) opening with the conjunctions *ἵνα*, *ὅπως*, or *ὥς*
 - *ἵνα* is perhaps most important to remember
 - e.g. Ἀβροκόμας τὰ πλοῖα κατέκαυσεν, *ἵνα* μὴ Κῦρος *διαβῇ* τὸν ποταμόν 'Abrakomas burned the ships, so that Kyros would not cross the river'
- The negation is *μή*
- We have previously used *ὥς* + future participle to express purpose, RG 251

Subjunctives in subclauses II

- Subjunctive is also necessary to express an English 'that...' clause after verbs of fearing (RG 293) if the fear refers to the future rather than past events
- We have used φοβοῦμαι in two types of constructions up to now:
 - φοβοῦμαι τοὺς Πέρσας 'I am afraid of the Persians' = with accusative
 - φοβοῦμαι φυγεῖν = with infinitive
- With the subjunctive, we can also say:
 - φοβοῦμαι μὴ φευγῆς 'I am afraid, that you will flee'

RG 14: Subjunctive with *ŷv* in temporal and conditional subclauses

- The subjunctive is also frequently used in temporal and conditional clauses together with the particle *ŷv*
- It expresses either a future action or a repeated action applicable either to the present or the future
- The subjunctive with *ŷv* indicates that the action is less clearly envisioned than if indicative were used: it is 'indefinite'

Examples: conditionals

- ἥξω [future indicative] παρὰ σὲ αὔριον, ἐὰν θεὸς θέλῃ [present subjunctive]
 - ‘I will come to you tomorrow, if God wills [it so]’
 - The implication of the ‘indefinite’ is that the speaker does not know whether God will or not
- Compare potential-to-fulfill (present or future), with optative and ἄν :
 - φῶς εἰ μὴ ἔχοιμεν, οἵμοι τοῖς τυφλοῖς ἄν εἶμεν ‘if we did not have the light, we would be like the blind’
- ...and contrary-to-fact (past), with ἄν and past tense:
 - ἴσως ἄν ἀπέθανον, εἰ μὴ ἡ ἀρχὴ τῶν τριάκοντα κατελύθη ‘perhaps I would have been killed, if the reign of the thirty hadn’t been overthrown’

Examples: temporal clauses

- Conjunctions like ἐπεί, ἐπειδή 'when', ὅσάκις 'as often as', ἐν ᾧ 'while' etc. are often contracted with ἄν
 - The same applies to εἰ, contracting to εἰάν
- If the subclause they introduce refers to the future, the mood is subjunctive
- The meaning then is 'when' *etc* (=> 'whenever that is')
- ἐπειδὴν διαπραξῶμαι ἃ δέομαι, ἥξω... 'when I **accomplish** what I need, I will come...'
 - aorist subjunctive in the temporal clause, future in the main clause
- The same applies to relative clauses with a similar, indefinite meaning – these are often near temporal in sense!

Next steps

- Use the general introduction to the subjunctive, clean subjunctives, and subjunctives in purpose clauses and after verbs of fearing for reference
- Work through the examples of dependent clauses with *āv* and subjunctive in RG 14 Revision on p. 307
- When reading unadapted text, RG 398-406 will be particularly helpful