

Beginning Greek I
Session 6: Greek Mood

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“Mood” concerns whether a statement is considered to be realized/unrealized or likely/unlikely to be realized. For example, in English,

- “I wish I were at the store...” Unrealized
- “If I were at the store ...” Unrealized
- “I would go to the store ...” Unrealized
- “I went to the store.” Realized
- “I will go to the store.” Likely to happen
- “I am going to the store.” Realized
- “Go to the store.” Unrealized

The four moods in Greek, which also are moods in English, are:

- Indicative – realized or likely to be realized
- Imperative – Command
- Subjunctive – Unrealized or likely to be unrealized
- Optative – Unrealized wish

Up until now, we have seen that the Greeks made changes to verb stems to indicate person, number, voice, and tense.

- Tense – tense markers and endings
- Person, number, and voice - endings

For mood, the Greeks, for the most part, changed the connecting vowel to indicate a change in mood.

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|---|---------------|--------------|
| • Indicative – short vowels – epsilon, omicron, alpha | λυ – ο – μεν | λυ – ε – τε |
| • Imperative – short vowel – epsilon | λυ-ε | λυ – ε – τε |
| • Subjunctive – long vowel – omega or eta | λυ – ω – μεν | λυ – η – τε |
| • Optative – short vowel + iota | λυ – οι – μεν | λυ – οι – τε |

To recognize, the mood look at the connecting vowel.

Before we practice identifying mood, there are verbs that have long vowels that are not subjunctives. It usually involves contraction for these two reasons.

- The verb stem ends in a vowel and contracts with the connecting vowel.
- The connecting vowel contracts with vowels in the ending.

The good news is that as you become more familiar with Greek verbs and stems you will recognize that they end in vowels and the contraction follows a definite pattern.

We have already learned that endings on verbs help indicate:

- Tense - primary (present, future, perfect); secondary (imperfect, aorist, pluperfect)
- Voice – active or middle/passive

Endings also indicate person and number. *Remember contraction of connecting vowel-endings.*

Endings

PRIMARY

Active

1st person, singular	λυ – ω	I loosen.
2nd person, singular	λυ – εις	You loosen.
3rd person, singular	λυ – ει	He/she/it loosens.
1st person, plural	λυ – ο – μεν	We loosen.
2nd person, plural	λυ – ε – τε	You (plural) loosen.
3rd person, plural	λυ – ουσι	They loosen. ⁸

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Middle/passive

1st person, singular	λυ – ο – μαι	I am loosened. OR I loosen myself.
2nd person, singular	λυ – η (σαι)	You are loosened. OR You loosen yourself.
3rd person, singular	λυ – ε – ται	He/she/it is loosened. OR He/she/it loosens he/she/itself.
1st person, plural	λυ – ο – μεθα	We are loosened. OR We loosen ourselves.
2nd person, plural	λυ – ε – σθε	You (pl) are loosened. OR You (pl) loosen yourselves.
3rd person, plural	λυ – ο – νται	They are loosened. OR They loosen themselves.

SECONDARY

Active

1st person, singular	ἐλυ – ο – ν	I was loosening.
2nd person, singular	ἐλυ – ε – ς	You were loosening.
3rd person, singular	ἐλυ – ε	He/she/it was loosening.
1st person, plural	ἐλύ – ο – μεν	We were loosening.
2nd person, plural	ἐλύ – ε – τε	You (plural) were loosening.
3rd person, plural	ἐλυ – ο – ν	They were loosening.

Middle/passive

1st person, singular	ἐλυ – ο – μην	I am loosened. OR I loosen myself.
2nd person, singular	ἐλυ – ου (σο)	You are loosened. OR You loosen yourself.
3rd person, singular	ἐλύ – ε – το	He/she/it is loosened. OR He/she/it loosens he/she/itself.
1st person, plural	ἐλύ – ο – μεθα	We are loosened. OR We loosen ourselves.
2nd person, plural	ἐλύ – ε – σθε	You (pl) are loosened. OR You (pl) loosen yourselves.
3rd person, plural	ἐλύ – ο – ντο	They are loosened. OR They loosen themselves.

English to Greek

Using the Greek stem, $\gamma\rho\alpha\phi$ add the proper ending to indicate the following person and number.

1. We *wish we were writing*.
2. He is writing.
3. If we were writing ...
4. Write. (Said to one person)
5. If they would write ...
6. You (plural) are writing.
7. I am writing.
8. If I were writing ...

Using the stem, $\lambda\upsilon$ add the proper ending to indicate the proper mood.

1. We wish we were loosening ourselves. (The optative uses secondary endings.)
2. If we were being loosened ...
3. They are loosening themselves.
4. It is being loosened.
5. If she were loosening herself.
6. Loosen yourselves.
7. Loosen yourself.

Greek to English

Let's look again at the verbs from chapter 1. See if you can figure out the mood for each. Then give a possible translation. Remember that Greek verbs include the subject.

1. γράφομεν
2. ἦν
3. ἀκηκόαμεν
4. ἐωράκαμεν
5. ἐθεασάμεθα
6. ἐψηλάφησαν
7. ἐφανερώθη
8. μαρτυροῦμεν
9. ἀπαγγέλλομεν
10. ἔχητε
11. ἐστίν
12. ἔχομεν
13. περιπατῶμεν
14. ψευδόμεθα
15. ποιοῦμεν

16. καθαρίζει

17. εἵπωμεν

18. πλανῶμεν

19. ὁμολογῶμεν

20. ἡμαρτήκαμεν