

Major Uses of the Greek Verb

1. Purpose is expressed by:
 - a. ἵνα, ὥς, or ὅπως with the subjunctive in primary sequence, and with the optative in secondary sequence. The negative is μή.
 - b. ὥς with the future participle (ὥς may be omitted). The negative is μή.
 - c. The infinitive (rarely)
 - d. With verbs of effort or striving, purpose is expressed by ὅπως with the future indicative. The negative is μή.
2. Result is expressed by:
 - a. ὥστε plus the indicative for actual result, negative οὐ.
 - b. ὥστε plus the infinitive for natural result, negative μή.
3. Indirect discourse
 - a. Most verbs of mental action and some of saying, especially φημί, are followed by the infinitive (in the same tense as the original verb) and subject accusative for main clauses.
 - b. Most verbs of saying are followed by ὅτι or ὥς with the mood of the main verbs unchanged in primary sequence, whereas it *may* be changed to the corresponding tense of the optative in secondary sequence – except for indicative plus ἄν. Tense is always unchanged.
 - c. Verbs of sense perception usually take the participle (in the same tense as the original verb) and subject accusative, though many may also take the ὅτι construction.
 - d. Indirect questions follow the rules for the ὅτι construction.
 - e. Subordinate clauses in all types of indirect discourse remain unchanged in mood and tense in primary sequence. In secondary sequence primary tenses of the indicative and any verbs in the subjunctive *may* be changed to the corresponding tense of the optative, with ἄν dropping out, but secondary tenses of the indicative remain unchanged.
4. Temporal Clauses
 - a. πρίν following an affirmative clause means *before* and takes the infinitive with subject accusative.
 - b. πρίν meaning *until* following a negative clause, and ἕως, ἕστέ, and μέχρι, which always mean *until* or *while*, take the following construction:
 - i. To denote a definite past act they take the indicative, usually aorist. The same is true of ἐπεὶ and ἐπειδή, *when* or *after* or *since*.
 - ii. When they denote an anticipated, a future, or a repeated act, they take the subjunctive with ἄν in primary sequence, the optative without ἄν in secondary sequence.
5. Verbs of fearing are followed by clauses beginning with μή for an affirmative, μή οὐ for a negative fear, with the subjunctive in primary, the optative in secondary sequence.
6. Commands are expressed by the imperative, negative μή. Negative command may also be expressed by μή plus the aorist subjunctive (the “prohibitory subjunctive”).
7. The subjunctive may be used independently to express exhortation, in the first person plural. The negative is μή.
8. The optative plus ἄν may be used independently to express potential.

9. Wishes

- a. Future wishes may be expressed by the optative, with or without εἶθε or εἰ γάρ.
- b. Impossible wishes are expressed by εἶθε or εἰ γάρ with the imperfect indicative for present time, the aorist indicative for past time. They may also be expressed by the various persons of ὄφελον with the present or aorist infinitive.
- c. The negative of all wishes is μή.

10. A cautious assertion is expressed with μή, a cautious denial with μή οὐ.

- a. The indicative with μή or μή οὐ describes what the speaker thinks is or is not true.
- b. The subjunctive with μή or μή οὐ describes what the speaker thinks may or may not prove true.

11. οὐ μή may be combined with a main verb in the future indicative or the subjunctive to indicate an emphatic denial or an urgent prohibition depending on the context.

12. Conditions

	Protasis (Negative μή)	Apodosis (Negative οὐ)
Simple	εἰ + Indicative	Indicative
Future Most Vivid	εἰ + Future Indicative	Future Indicative
Future More Vivid	εἰάν + Subjunctive	Future indicative
Future Less Vivid	εἰ + Optative	Optative + ἄν
Present General	εἰάν + Subjunctive	Present Indicative
Past General	εἰ + Optative	Past tense Indicative
Present Contrafactual	εἰ + Imperfect Indicative	Imperfect Indicative + ἄν
Past Contrafactual	εἰ + Aorist Indicative	Aorist Indicative + ἄν

13. A relative pronoun or adverb may introduce a condition.