Rolf Hesse

Syntax of the Modern Greek Verbal System

The Use of the Forms, Particularly
in Combination with θα and νά

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Second revised edition

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FOREWORD

The present study was originally conceived and written in the 1970s and the first edition was published in 1980, based entirely on text material compiled by hand and ear. Since that time scholars have shed much light on the morphology and the functions of the Modern Greek Verb, and computers have provided us with huge text corpuses, allowing us to study the actual use of each verb and the syntactical patterns they fit into. Great linguistic reforms have been accomplished: the learned language type (katharevousa) was abolished in 1976, together with the polytonic accent system, and today there is in principle only one Greek Language, used in everyday conversation as well as in technical manuals, legal texts and church sermons, incorporating words and constructions of learned, ancient or biblical origin. Greek lexicography, rid of the linguistic schism, has made tremendous progress: in the 1990s, several excellent monolingual Greek dictionaries were published illustrating and defining the actual senses and uses of Modern Greek vocabulary.

Nevertheless, I have maintained the straightforward structural approach of the first edition, supposing that:

1. language is built up of words (even if we cannot exactly define what a word is);
2. Modern Greek verbs have a rich morphology;
3. it is a reasonable method to base the description of syntactic patterns on morphological categories, in other words, to describe the use of the different 'forms' (such as tense, voice, and mood when they are mirrored in inflection);
4. notions of semantics should be introduced as late as possible in the description.

Since the perfect tense system is periphrastic, consisting of a form of $\dot{\epsilon}\chi\omega$ + the so-called 'aorist infinitive' ($\lambda\acute{\upsilon}\sigma\epsilon\iota/\lambda\upsilon\theta\epsilon\acute{\iota}$ – here called 'perfective infinite'), the perfect is dealt with under this latter form (5.7), leaving the controversial issue as to whether Greek has two or three verbal aspects undetermined.

The author would wish to thank all that have contributed with fruitful discussions and useful suggestions, especially Bo-Lennart Eklund, Gothenburg University, and Jørn Qvonje, Copenhagen University. Above all I am deeply indebted to Caspar Curdt Christiansen, M.A., who besides useful commentaries on the contents, has revised and improved the English of this study thanks to a grant from the Danish Research Council for the Humanities. In the final stage my son, Karsten Hesse, has rendered invaluable help in reading the whole text through with a critical and lingustically competent eye. Finally I wish to thank the Danish Research Council for the Humanities and the E. Lerager Larsens Fond for their financial support for the publication of the book.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The present study provides a survey of the use of Modern Greek verbal forms. The first chapter deals with the problems of voice and transitivity, followed by some general remarks on the verbal aspect, a problem that causes non-native-speakers special difficulties. Subsequently the verbal forms are examined one by one, the imperfective being followed in each case by the corresponding perfective in order to make the aspectual opposition as clear as possible. Next, the uses of the "verbal particles" θα, να and ας are examined; finally, in two appendices some problems concerning indirect speech and the use of negatives are dealt with.

The advantages of this method are obvious: the plan is simple and makes it easy to find answers to questions that inevitably present themselves to anyone trying to learn Greek, e.g. when is the form γράψω used?

The most serious disadvantage is that by examining the forms one by one, expressions of related or even identical meaning are found separately instead of simultaneaously. Thus, for example, the prohibition μη γράψεις 'don't write', belongs to the chapter 'perfective non-past', γράψε 'write!' falls under 'imperative' and να γράψεις 'you must write' under να. To meet this inconvenience, expressions of order and prohibition have been grouped together in connection with the use of the imperative forms, and references are given in their systematic place. This is true of all the (rather few) cases of deviation from the structural system.

A similar problem is raised by the different kinds of subordinate clauses: conditional, consecutive, final, object clauses etc. In principle these clauses are not dealt with in the present study, except for some remarks in the chapter 'perfective non-past' and whenever they contain a να. Clauses of the same kind, not containing να, are discussed only in so far as they serve to demarcate more precisely the function or the meaning of the να-clause[1].

1.1. Terminology

The terminology employed in this study is that found in most recent descriptions of the Modern Greek language with a few modifications:

a) Nouns and other case-declined words we call nomina; the term 'nomen' thus covers nouns, adjectives, pronouns and numerals.

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[1] See the detailed table of contents

b) The traditional classification of a number of small words is very un-satisfactory, e.g. να may be termed 'conjunction' in some cases (θέλω να πάω 'I want to go'),'verbal particle' in others (πού να πάω; 'where shall I go?'). που is sometimes a conjunction (χαίρομαι που), sometimes a relative pronoun (ο φίλος που). To clarify matters, we have chosen to term these words introductives. The characteristic position of an introductive is at the beginning of a clause, or, at any rate, not at the end of it. In this way we shall not need to consider να and που members of several word classes, but can base our description on the assumption that there is only one (unstressed)να[2], one που, one ας etc.

c) Verbs: Modern Greek has two aspects, 'imperfective' and 'perfective', the last being traditionally called 'aorist'. Each aspect has two tenses, non-past and past, plus an imperative and an uninflected (infinite) form. Besides the two aspects with their own morphology there exists a periphrastic perfect system, combining an imperfective form of έχω with a perfective infinite form of the main verb. The form system occurs twice, in the active and the mediopassive[3] voice. In the following table the inflected forms are given in the first person singular, except for the imperative (second person singular):

λύνω = 'loosen, solve':

Active	Non-past	Past	Imperative	Infinite
Imper-fective	λύνω	έλυνα	λύνε	λύνοντας
Perfec-tive	λύσω	έλυσα	λύσε	λύσει

Medio-passive	Non-past	Past	Imperative	Infinite
Imper-fective	λύνομαι	λυνόμουν	–	–
Perfec-tive	λυθώ	λύθηκα	λύσου	λυθεί

The imperfective and perfective infinite forms have completely different functions. They are here listed together in order to concentrate all basic forms in a small space.

It will be noticed that the adjectival passive participles λυόμενος (from the ancient/learned λύω) and λυμένος have been left out. They are considered pure adjectives, but see also p. 25 and regarding their use as 'alternative perfect constructions' p. 48. The very unusual mediopassive imperfective imperative has been left out.

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[2] To be distinguished from the etymologically different stressed να = 'voilà' να 'την η Μαρία 'there is Maria' να' μαστε 'here we are'
[3] Or passive voice Mediopassive, however, better describes its various functions The real passive is not the most frequent function See p 18-19

LIST OF TERMS

The forms will be treated in the following order, once the problems of voice have been examined in a separate chapter[4]:

Form	Abbrev.	Term	Traditional Term	Greek Traditional Term
1 λύνω	Impf.NP	Imperfective	Present tense Non-past	Ενεστώτας (οριστική/υποτακτική)
2 λύσω	Perf.NP	Perfective Non-past	Aorist Subjunctive	Υποτακτική αορίστου
3 έλυνα	Impf.Past	Imperfective	Imperfect Past	Παρατατικός
4 έλυσα	Perf.Past	Perfective Past	Aorist (indicative)	Αόριστος (οριστική)
5 λύσει	Perf.Inf.	Perfective Infinite	(Aorist) Infinitive	Απαρέμφατο (αορίστου)
5a έχω λύσει	Perfect	Perfect	Perfect	Παρακείμενος
5b είχα λύσει	Pluperfect	Pluperfect	Pluperfect	Υπερσυντέλικος
6 λύνε	Impf.Imp	Imperfective Imperative	Present Imperative	Προστακτική ενεστώτα
7 λύσε	Perf.Imp	Perfective Imperative	Aorist Imperative	Προστακτική αορίστου
8 λύνοντας	Gerund	Gerund (Imperfective Infinite)	Present Participle	Μετοχή
9	θα + 1), 2), 3), 4), 5a), 5b).			
10	να + 1), 2), 3), 4), 5a), 5b).			

For the use of the participles in -μενος and -μένος, see p. 25.

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[4] The table below gives only the active forms. The terminology follows with some exceptions Holton/ Mackridge/Philippaki-Warburton, whose terms, however, are more practical, but less systematic, e.g. the perfective past is just called 'simple past', the perfective non-past 'dependent'

Note on the supposed existence of a subjunctive:

The traditional supposition of a subjunctive mood in Modern Greek creates unsurmountable difficulties:

1. The impossibility of distinguishing a "present indicative" from a "present subjunctive"[5]

2. The impossibility of attaching any modal sense that justifies the name of subjunctive to expressions like: μόλις πιω, ζαλίζομαι 'as soon as I drink, I feel dizzy' and λες να έρθει; 'do you think he'll come?' (compare λες να ήρθε 'do you think he has come?') or to the normal future: Δεν θα βρέξει 'it will not rain'.

3. The hesitation in many grammars as to whether the form with or without να are to be termed subjunctive[6].

4. A real modal distinction can be found between the two negatives δεν and μη(ν) when negating finite verbs, but both are used with the so-called subjunctive forms: αν δεν πληρώσεις 'if you do not pay'; μην πληρώσεις 'don't pay!'.

1.2. Material used

The aim of the present study is to examine the use of the verbal forms in both spoken and written Modern Greek.

In the present work most of the examples have been compiled from modern prose writers, a few from grammars (above all Τζάρτζανος) and others have been collected from newspapers, publicity, advertisements and the like. A few examples are homemade, but checked by linguistically competent Greeks.

The literary works that supplied the largest part of the material for the first edition were:

Άγγελος Βλάχος: Το μνήμα της Γριάς (Β' έκδ., Γαλαξία 1969)
Νίκος Καζαντζάκης: Ο Χριστός ξανασταυρώνεται (9η έκδ., 1969)
Σωτήρης Πατατζής: Μεθυσμένη Πολιτεία (Β' έκδ., Φέξης 1962)
Κώστας Ταχτσής: Το τρίτο στεφάνι (Ερμής 1970)
Νίκος Τσιφόρος: Σταυροφορίες (Αθήνα 1964).

In the present edition this material has been supplemented and partly substituted by examples from a large diversity of fiction and faction works of the last two decades (1980-2000), partly gathered in a text corpus of about a 2 400 000 words.

Grammars and monographies on grammatical issues are listed on page 139.

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[5] See e g the attempt in Triantaphyllidis (1941/1991) p 343

[6] See e g Pernot, p 160. the present subj of the verb αγαπώ is: "(να) et les formes de l'indicatif".

1.2.1. Dhimotiki/katharevousa

The influence of the learned language (katharevousa), which has caused so much trouble in matters of morphology and which has changed, but also enriched vocabulary considerably, has not changed the syntax of the spoken language to the same extent. As to written prose, the elaborated syntax found in the serious press, in scientific and scholarly articles, and in legal and administrative texts makes extended use of learned constructions that were condemned by orthodox demoticists, e.g. "sandwiched" attributive constructions, imperfective passive participles and objects in the genitive[7].

In literary works expressions and syntax that do not belong to natural speech today are frequently used, either to characterize a person and his way of speaking, or to parody bureaucratic style, or to give an ironical or humorous[8] tone to the text, or in other contexts to create an atmosphere of (e.g. religious) tradition.

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[7] "Sandwiched" construction· το από 3 Μαΐου 1998 έγγραφό σας 'your letter of May 3rd 1998' Passive participle. πιεζόμενος από ανάγκη 'forced by necessity' Object in the genitive· ο Μ ηγείται μιας κυβέρνησης μειοψηφίας 'M. leads a minority government'
[8] E g Νίκος Βασιλειάδης· ΑΓΑΘΟΣ, Εκδ. Νεφέλη 1989

2. INFLECTION

Inflection makes any form of a Greek verb indicate at least three of the following categories:

A.   **person and number**, either first, second or third person, either singular or plural[9], e.g. χάνω 'I lose' χάνουν 'they lose'.

B.   **voice**, either active, e.g. έχασα 'I lost', or mediopassive, e.g. χάθηκα 'I was lost'.

C.   **aspect**, either imperfective or perfective, e.g. έχανα 'I was losing', έχασα 'I lost'.

D.   **mood/tense**, either non-past, past, or imperative e.g. χάνεις 'you lose', έχανες 'you were losing', χάνε 'lose!'.

The infinite forms (No. 5 and 8 on the list page 11) express only voice and (to a certain degree) aspect.

The imperative is only used in the second person (except for fossiled 3 sg. forms from Ancient Greek: γεννηθήτω το θέλημά σου "let your will be done", έστω = 'let it be, be it so').

The infinite forms are:

– the imperfective gerund (so-called "participle"). Only active[10]:
     χάνοντας '(while) losing'. See p. 43.

– the perfective undeclinable form, the so-called "infinitive" (απαρέμφατο), active and mediopassive, always preceded by some form of έχω, with which it builds the periphrastic perfect system:
     έχω χάσει 'I have lost'
     έχω χαθεί 'I have been lost'.
     See p. 44 ff.

– the participles:
     στηριζόμενος (σε)   'relying (upon)'
     στηριγμένος   'supported'.
     See also p. 25 with footnote 17.

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[9] The imperative only in the second person

[10] In older language occasionally formed by deponent verbs· φοβώντας (from φοβάμαι) 'fearing'

3. PERSON AND NUMBER

The **second person singular** is used, like in English, in a generic sense:

Ποτέ δεν ξέρεις ....
> 'You never know' ('on ne sait jamais', 'man kann nie wissen').

The **first person plural** of the verb can be used when the subject is εγώ με ... (= "I together with ..."):

Εγώ με τη γυναίκα μου θα πάμε στη Ρώμη.
> 'Me and my wife, we are going to Rome'.

The **second person pl.** is also used as the polite form (like French *vous*):

Είσαστε ευχαριστημένος;
> 'Are you satisfied (sir)?'
Είσαστε ευχαριστημένη;
> 'Are you satisfied (madam)?'

The **third person plural** can be used impersonally ('they', 'people'):

- Πιστεύετε στην έμπνευση; υπάρχει;
- Έτσι λένε ..., λένε ότι υπάρχει.
> 'Do you believe in inspiration? Does it exist?
> - They say so, they say it does exist.'

4. VOICE

4.1. General remarks

Every verbal form is marked as being either active or mediopassive[11]. To describe the opposition we need the notions of transitivity and intransitivity. Some Greek verbs never take an object, they are intransitive, e.g υπάρχω 'exist' and έρχομαι 'come'. Most verbs, however, may take an object, i.e. a nomen in the accusative case or a subordinate clause.

The number of Modern Greek verbs that may be used transitively as well as intransitively being very large, it seems important to distinguish the accusative object from other uses of the accusative: expressions of time, measure etc., and object clauses from a final clause (which may both be introduced by να). We shall therefore venture the following definition:

A verb is said to be used transitively if it is accompanied by an unstressed personal pronoun in the accusative case (με, σε, τον, την το etc.) or by a nomen or a subordinate clause that can be converted into such a pronoun[12] e.g.:

Transitive:

πάω τη γιαγιά μου στο σταθμό   = την πάω
     'I take my grandmother to the station'.
φοβάμαι να τραγουδάω   = το φοβάμαι
     'I am afraid to sing'.
πέρασα δύο μήνες στη Ρόδο   = τους πέρασα
     'I spent two months at Rhodes'.
ζυγίζω τα φρούτα   = τα ζυγίζω
     'I weigh the fruits'.
γέμισα το δοχείο   = το γέμισα
     'I filled the vessel'.

Intransitive:

πάω τη νύχτα στο σταθμό   (= μέσα στη νύχτα)
     'I go to the station by night'.
πάω να κοιμηθώ   (= για να κοιμηθώ)
     'I go to sleep'.
πέρασα εκείνη την ώρα από το γραφείο   (= τότε)
     'At that moment I came through the office'.
ζυγίζω 70 κιλά   = ?
     'I weigh 70 kg'.
το δοχείο γέμισε νερό   (= με/από νερό).
     'The vessel was filled with water'.

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[11] In a few verbs there seems to be no real opposition between the two voices See 2 3

[12] In order to pass the test a nomen with an undefinite article or without an article must be considered functionally equivalent to a definite one πίνω καφέ = πίνω τον καφέ = τον πίνω

4.2. No opposition active-mediopassive

The opposition between the active and the mediopassive is suspended in a number of cases, namely:

a) if the verb has only active forms. This is the case even with some clearly transitive verbs like κάνω 'do', έχω 'have', as well as with some that are used both transitively and intransitively, e.g. τελειώνω 'end' and πηγαίνω, which means 'go' (intransitive), but in transitive use means 'take (somebody somewhere)'. See also p. 19.

b) if the verb has only mediopassive forms ('deponent verbs'), whether it is transitive like φοβάμαι 'fear', intransitive like κοιμάμαι 'sleep', or both, like χρειάζομαι 'need':
Πόσα σου χρειάζονται; – Χρειάζομαι χίλια ευρώ.
'How much money is needed "for you"? – I need 1000 euro'.

c) if there is complementary distribution between the two aspects: only mediopassive forms in the imperfective, only active in the perfective. Such distribution is found only with the following three verbs and their compounds:

	become	come	sit
Imperfective (mediopassive)	γίνομαι	έρχομαι	κάθομαι
Perfective (active)	γίνω	έρθω	καθίσω

d) if there is free variation in one or both aspects as in the following cases:

	stand	defend
Imperfective	στέκομαι/στέκω	υπερασπίζω/υπερασπίζομαι
Perfective	σταθώ	υπεράσπισα/υπερασπιστώ

So also ξεθαρρεύω/ξεθαρρεύομαι 'grow bold'.

Besides χαίρομαι 'be glad, enjoy' also the active form χαίρω is used, but only in the phrase χαίρω πολύ 'pleased to meet you' and with a (learned) genitive object χαίρω άκρας υγείας 'enjoy very good health'.

The verb ξαπλώνω, tr. 'stretch out, spread', it. 'lie down', can also be used intransitively in the mediopassive: ξαπλώνομαι 'lie down at full length, stretch oneself'[13].

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[13] Ξαπλώθηκα στον καναπέ 'I stretched out on the sofa', besides ξαπλώθηκε γενική δυσπιστία 'general disbelief spread'

4.3. Opposition effective

4.3.1. Complete opposition active-mediopassive

When there is opposition between the active and the mediopassive voice, it may be described as follows:

When the verb is in the active form, the subject is the actor – the object the goal or result:

Ο υπουργός ποτίζει τη γλάστρα 'the minister waters the flower pot'
Το πότισμα προκαλεί θαυμασμό 'the watering provokes admiration'.

When the verb is in the mediopassive form the subject is the goal or result of the action expressed by the verb:

Η γλάστρα ποτίζεται 'the flowerpot is being watered'.
Προκαλείται θαυμασμός 'admiration is provoked'.

The actor may then be:

> 1) an agent expressed by από + the accusative: ποτίζεται από τον υπουργό 'it is watered by the minister' (passive sense);

> 2) the subject itself, as in πλένομαι 'wash myself', σηκώνομαι 'rise, get up'and ετοιμάζομαι 'prepare myself' (equalling ετοιμάζω τον εαυτό μου, which is rarer and more emphatic); κοιτάχτηκα 'I looked at myself in the mirror' (reflexive sense);

> 3) the subjects mutually: φιλιούνται 'they kiss each other' (more emphatic: αλληλοφιλιούνται, φιλιούνται μεταξύ τους or: φιλάνε/φιλάει ο ένας τον άλλον), γνωριστήκαμε 'we got acquainted (with each other)'; κοιτάχτηκαν 'they looked at each other' (reciprocal sense);

> 4) unmentioned or unknown: το πρόβλημα λύθηκε 'the problem was solved', σκοτώθηκαν 'they were killed (by some accident)' (neutral expressions).

A particular case of the passive is the very frequent 'potential' imperfective in expressions such as:

πλένεται 'it can be washed' = it is washable, δεν λέγεται 'you cannot (possibly) say that', γίνεται 'it may be done', 'it is possible to do it' [14]; το κρασί δεν πινόταν 'the wine was undrinkable'.

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[14] The verb γίνομαι functions in such expressions as the passive equivalent to the verb κάνω 'to do, make', which has no passive form itself.

The true passive (number 1 in the preceding list) with the agent adjunct (από ...) is not very frequent. 'The murderer was seized by the police' will usually be rendered: Η αστυνομία έπιασε τον δολοφόνο rather than ο δολοφόνος πιάστηκε από την αστυνομία.

And even when no agent is indicated, the active voice is often preferred: τον πιάσανε! 'they got him!', though formal language has a predilection for passive expressions such as συνελήφθη (από την αστυνομία) 'he was arrested (by the police)'.

One more example:

Βαφτιστήκατε, έτσι δεν είναι; – Με βάφτισαν. 'You have been christ-ened, haven't you?' – 'Well, they christened me'. (The active form of the answer stresses how the christening was forced upon him from without: 'they did it').

4.3.2. Partial opposition active-mediopassive

In many verbs the opposition active-mediopassive described in the preceding section is only partially valid.

Very frequently the active forms are used both transitively and intransitively. The corresponding mediopassive forms – if they occur – are then used partially as pure passives in opposition to the transitive active, and partially in senses very close to those of the intransitive active.

The following table shows some typical examples:

| | Active Form | Mediopassive Form |
Transitive	Intransitive	
1 Άλλαξα σπίτι	Άλλαξε ο καιρός	(Το μωρό αλλάχθηκε)
2 Ανοίγω την πόρτα	Η πόρτα ανοίγει	Η πόρτα δεν ανοίγεται χωρίς κλειδί.
3 Γυρίζω τη ρόδα	Η ρόδα γυρίζει	Η ταινία γυρίστηκε εδώ.
4 Επιστρέφω τα βιβλία[15]	Επιστρέφω σπίτι	Τα βιβλία επιστράφηκαν.
5 Έδεσα το σκοινί	Η κρέμα έδεσε	Το σκοινί δέθηκε.
6 Κρατάω το χέρι της	Το λουρί κρατάει	Κρατιέται στο τμήμα.
6a Κρατάω το λόγο μου	Η ομιλία κράτησε δύο ώρες	Κρατήθηκα στο φράχτη.
7 Μαζεύω χρήματα	Το ύφασμα μαζεύει	Ο κόσμος μαζεύεται.
8 Πέρασα το δρόμο	Πέρασε ο πόνος	Περνιέται για ποιητής.
9 Πετάω την μπάλα	Το πουλί πετάει	Τα σκουπίδια πετιούνται.
9a		Πετάχτηκα από την καρέκλα.
10 Σβήνω τη λάμπα	Η φωτιά έσβησε	Η φωτιά σβήστηκε.
11 Έσπασα το ποτήρι	Το ποτήρι έσπασε	–
12 Ξύπνησα το γιο μου	Ξύπνησα δίπλα της	Δεν ξυπνιέμαι εύκολα.
13 Ο θάνατος τους χώρισε	Χώρισαν οι δρόμοι μας	Χωρίστηκαν δίχως να φιληθούν.
13a Χώρισα τη Μαρία	Παντρεύτηκαν και χώρισαν	–

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[15] Just like γυρίζω τα βιβλία and γυρίζω σπίτι - but hardly: τα βιβλία γυρίστηκαν.

Translation

1 I've moved (= changed my abode)	The weather has changed	(The baby was changed)
2 I open the door	The door opens	The door cannot be opened without a key.
3 I turn the wheel ("turned") here.	The wheel is turning	The film has been produced
4 I return the books	I return home	The books have been returned.
5 I tied the rope	The cream has thickened	The rope has been tied.
6 I hold her hand	The strap holds	He is being held at the police station.
6a I keep my word	The speech lasted two hours	I held on to the fence.
7 I gather money	The cloth shrinks	People are gathering.
8 I crossed the road	The pain has passed	He is supposed to be a poet.
9 I throw the ball	The bird flies	The rubbish is thrown away.
9a		I started up from the chair.
10 I switch off the lamp	The fire went out	The fire was quenched.
11 I broke the glass	The glass was broken	–
12 I woke my son	I woke up at her side	I'm not easily awoken.
13 Death parted them	We parted company	They parted without kissing.
13a I divorced Maria	They married and divorced	–

A few verbs show a transitive and a causative use, e.g. γνωρίζω, σπουδάζω:

'Normal' transitive or intransitive:

Γνώρισα τη γυναίκα σου.   'I got acquainted with your wife'.
Σπουδάζει γιατρός.   'He is studying medicine (to become a doctor)'.

Causative:

Να σου γνωρίσω τη γυναίκα μου. 'Let me introduce my wife to you'.
Τον σπουδάζει ο θείος του.   'His uncle pays his studies'.

A special type of causative use is found with verbs referring to actions that usually demand a specialist's aid. In this case 'X makes Y' can mean 'X has Y made for himself by the implied specialist'.
Examples of such verbs are:

        κόβω   a) cut   b) have (one's hair) cut
        ράβω   a) sew   b) have (one's clothes) made

Thus έκοψα τα μαλλιά μου may mean:
        a) 'I cut my hair' b) 'I had my hair cut' = κουρεύτηκα.

Έβαψα το σπίτι μου may mean:
        a) 'I painted my house'
        b) 'I (the owner) have had my house painted (by the painter)'.

An example of the neutral mediopassive:

ο κόσμος δεν ράβεται πια 'People don't go to the tailor's any more'.

The verb κάνω 'do, make' behaves similarly with certain objects, e.g.:
κάνω εγχείριση = a) I operate (surgically), b) I undergo an operation.

Not very frequently the mediopassive forms are used both transitively and intransitively. The case of χρειάζομαι has been mentioned on p. 17. In the following verbs there is partial opposition to the active:

active	*mediopassive*	
δανείζω 'lend'	δανείζομαι 'borrow' or:	'be lent'
μοιράζω 'distribute'	μοιράζομαι 'share' or:	'be distributed'
ορκίζω 'put on oath'	ορκίζομαι 'swear' or:	'be put on oath'
παντρεύω 'marry'	παντρεύομαι 'marry' or:	'be married'
(subject: the parents, or the priest)	(subject: the person who is married)	

There are very few such verbs nowadays. The type preserves a characteristic feature of the Ancient Greek mediopassive voice, which was often used in the sense of doing something for one self, thus:

ειρήνην ποιώ   'establish peace (between others)'
ειρήνην ποιούμαι 'make peace (between myself and somebody else)'.

4.4. Mediopassive with object

Many verbs allow for a transitive construction of the mediopassive voice, e.g.:

πληροφορώ = inform   πληροφορούμαι = be informed (about ...)
φορτώνω = load   φορτώνομαι
     = be loaded with, take on (as a burden)

Μόλις πληροφορήθηκα το αποτέλεσμα της μάχης, ...
     'As soon as I heard about the issue of the battle, ...'

'Αρον άρον φορτώθηκε το σάκο του.
     'He hastily loaded the kitbag on to his back'.

'Ενα δωμάτιο φορτωμένο παλιά έπιπλα.
     'A room encumbered with old furniture'.

The same verb without an object in a "genuine" medio-passive (reflexive) sense:

Φορτωθήκαμε όλοι σ' ένα φορτηγό και φύγαμε.
       'All of us jumped on to a lorry and left'.

4.5. Recapitulation

The verb πιάνω 'seize' furnishes good examples of the way in which the active and mediopassive voices may be employed:

Active:

Transitive

Πιάσαμε πολλά ψάρια
       'We caught a lot of fish'.

Τον έπιασα από τα μαλλιά
       'I seized him by the hair'.

Intransitive

Το γραμματόσημο δεν πιάνει στο φάκελο
       'The stamp will not stick to the envelope'.

Σε λίγο θα πιάσει μπόρα
       'There is going to be a storm any minute'.

Mediopassive:

Passive sense:

Η αλεπού δεν πιάνεται εύκολα
       'The fox is not easy to catch (lit. is not caught easily)'.

Ο πνιγμένος από τα μαλλιά του πιάνεται
       'A drowning man will clutch at a straw'.

Reflexive

Πιάνομαι από τα κάγκελα της σκάλας
       'I hold on to the banisters'.

Δος μου χέρι να πιαστώ
       'Give me your hand to hold on to'.

Reciprocal

Πιάνονται από τα χέρια
       'They hold hands'.

Πιαστήκανε στα χέρια
       'They came to blows'.

Neutral

Πιάστηκε το πόδι μου
       'My leg went numb'.

Το σακάκι μου πιάστηκε σ' ένα καρφί
       'My jacket got caught on a nail'.

5. ASPECT, TENSE , MOOD

5.1. Aspect

- Να μου γράψεις ευθύς.... να μου γράφεις ταχτικά.... ακούς;
- 'Οχι, δε θα σου γράφω![16]

    - You must write at once (when you arrive there) to me.... you must write
    regularly to me... are you listening?
    - No, I won't write to you.

The two aspects of the Modern Greek verbal system are here called imperfective and perfective (see p. 10). Aspect is a much more important feature of the Greek verbal system than the expression of relative time, as found in the perfect and pluperfect: the verbal forms convey information not about the order of the actions, but about how each of them is viewed: surveyed as a whole (perfective) or in development (imperfective). This is clearly shown by the above example where 'write a letter' (perfective form) is corrected by the speaker himself into 'write regularly' (imperfective). Besides the perfective excludes coincidence with another action:

Ο Κώστας σπούδασε γιατρός. Βρήκε δουλειά σε νοσοκομείο παίδων.
    'Kostas had studied medicine. He found a job at a children's
    hospital'.

Here the perfective σπούδασε excludes coincidence with the following βρήκε: he finished his studies before he found a job. With the imperfective σπούδαζε the sense would have been: 'When studying medicine, he began to work'.

While the opposition of voice is neutralized or at least weakened in a number of cases (cf. above), the opposition of aspect (imperfective/perfective) is clearly marked in the majority of verbal forms:

	non-past	past	imperative
imperfective	(θα/να/ας/αν...) γράφω	έγραφα	γράφε
perfective	(θα/να/ας/αν...) γράψω	έγραψα	γράψε

In the non-past the opposition is restricted to certain patterns because the perfective non-past can only be used if preceded by θα, να, ας, or certain other introductives. See 3.3, 'Perfective Non-past'.

In the following cases only imperfective forms can be used:

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[16] From the novel Πλούσιοι και φτωχοί by Γρ Ξενόπουλος (1919/1926).

1) In the present tense: γράφω 'I write, am writing'.

2) In the conditional mood: θα έγραφα 'I would write'.

3) The gerund: γράφοντας 'while writing'.

4) Some verbs do not have perfective forms: ανήκω 'belong', περιέχω 'contain'.

In other cases a verb of related meaning may supply the lacking perfective:

Impf.NP	*Perf.NP*
είμαι	υπάρξω, σταθώ
ξέρω	γνωρίσω, μάθω
έχω	πάρω.

In the imperative the aspectual opposition is sometimes weakened or even absent. See p. 52.

Finally, the passive participles (verbal adjectives) in -μένος with a sense of perfect (result, state, accomplished action) stand apart, together with the more limited number of imperfective participles in -όμενος[17], e.g.:

imperfective participle	*perfect participle*
αυξανόμενος 'growing, increasing'	αυξημένος 'increased'
βασιζόμενος (σε) 'basing (on)'	βασισμένος (σε) 'based (on)'

The difference between the imperfective and the perfective aspect is defined as follows in the "Reference Grammar of Greek Literary Dhimotiki", p. 104 (5.15):

"The perfective (aorist) aspect indicates that an action is perceived as momentary or as a completed whole, regardless of whether it is extended over a length of time or consists of repeated occurrences ... The imperfective aspect refers to an action perceived in its duration usually in relation to a point of time otherwise specified or implied; a verb in the imperfective aspect indicates, therefore, that an action or series of repetitions is incomplete at that point of time."

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[17] Normally the "passive present participle" can only be formed from Ancient Greek verbs (in their ancient form) απαιτούμενος 'requisite' from απαιτώ 'demand', λυόμενος 'sectional', 'prefabricated' from ancient λύω (modern λύνω) 'unbind, solve' More examples: αναπτυσσόμενος, απευθυνόμενος, εξαρτώμενος, προερχόμενος, προσφερόμενος, συνοδευόμενος, φορολογούμενος Some are mostly used as adjectives (e.g. απαιτούμενος), others also or predominantly as nouns (φορολογούμενος 'taxpaying', 'taxpayer'), or as "conjunct" passive participles (συνοδευόμενος 'being accompanied/escorted   '), corresponding to the active gerunds in -οντας.

Excellent as this definition is, it is however in need of further qualification. First, the meaning of many verbs allows for aspectual differentiation in two ways:

1) The action (or each single action) is viewed as complete or incomplete:

complete: τότε διάβασε το βιβλίο 'at that time he read the book'.

incomplete: τότε διάβαζε το βιβλίο 'at that time he was reading the book'.

2) The verb refers to what is perceived as a limited or unlimited number of actions, regardless of how each action is considered (complete or incomplete):

limited: διάβασα πολλά βιβλία
'I read many books'.

unlimited: διάβαζα από μία σελίδα την ημέρα
'I read one page every day'.

The difference of aspect, however, varies depending on tense and mood: while the notion of completion is inherent in all perfective forms, the notion of 'limited number' is apparently only bound to the Perf.Past, whereas the perfective non-past may well refer to an unlimited number of completed actions. For the special problems of the imperative see p. 50[18]. The difference between the perfective non-past and past can be illustrated by the following examples:

a) Impf.NP: Όταν οι 'Αγγλοι λένε κάτι, κρατούνε το λόγο τους.
b) Perf.NP: Όταν οι 'Αγγλοι πούνε κάτι, κρατούνε το λόγο τους.
'Whenever the English say something, they keep their word'.

The difference between a) and b) is very slight:
The imperfective (a) underlines the notion of repetition and might, with a different apodosis, imply simultaneity: 'when they are saying something, (e.g.:) they are always smiling', while the perfective (b) stresses the completion of each action: 'once they have said' and thus excludes simultaneity.

But the same meaning transferred to the past can only be expressed in the imperfective aspect: Όταν οι 'Αγγλοι έλεγαν κάτι, κρατούσανε το λόγο τους 'whenever the English said something, they kept their word'; while Perf.Past in both clauses would refer to a definite (number of) event(s): Όταν οι 'Αγγλοι είπαν κάτι, κράτησαν το λόγο τους 'all the X times the English said something, they kept their word'.

The crucial point is that the perfective non-past does not necessarily imply a totality of actions, but only conveys the perfective point of view to each action separately, whereas the perfective past implies such a totality. A perfective

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[18] The perfective imperative may even refer explicitly to repeated actions, in adverbial phrases such as με το τρίψε-τρίψε 'by rubbing and rubbing'

past can, however, also be used referring to a general case in a present tense context, equivalent to a perfect. This use is a typical feature of legal language:

'Οποιος σκότωσε σε μονομαχία τον αντίπαλό του, τιμωρείται με φυλάκιση τουλάχιστον τριών ετών 'Whoever kills his opponent during a duel, is punished with at least three years' imprisonment' (Penal Code, article 317).

Secondly, the notion of aspect is usually defined as above, as the way in which the action is perceived, so that a perfective and an imperfective can refer to the same event, viewed by the speaker in two different ways. E.g. 'he stayed at the village' is translated by έμεινε στο χωριό (perf.) to state the fact, but by έμενε στο χωριό (impf.) to give the background for a subsequent story. But sentences like: φόρεσε ένα καπέλο and φορούσε ένα καπέλο will in most contexts refer to different events, the perfective meaning 'he put on a hat', the imperfective 'he was wearing a hat'. This is due to the fact that the verb φορώ has two 'Aktionsarten':

a)   action: put on (clothes) – naturally expressed by perfective forms.

b)   state: wear – more often attached to imperfectives; but the other combinations of aspect and sense are by no means excluded:

	imperfective	*perfective*
action	was putting on / used to put on	put on
state	was wearing/ used to wear	wore

This 'objective' difference is inherent in the rather large number of verbs that may indicate both an action and a state. We first give the perfective forms as being the unmarked aspect, then the imperfective:

Examples with κοιμάμαι, κάθομαι, φτάνω:

	state	*action/change of state*
το παιδί κοιμήθηκε	the child slept (... hours)	... fell asleep
το παιδί κοιμόταν	the child was sleeping	... used to fall asleep
κάθησα στην καρέκλα	I sat on the chair	I sat down ...
καθόμουν στην καρέκλα	I was sitting on the chair	I used to sit down ...
το ψωμί έφτασε	the bread proved to be enough	the bread arrived
το ψωμί έφτανε	there was bread enough	the bread was arriving/ used to arrive

Similarly έγραφε either means 'he was writing/used to write' or with a written taxt as subject 'it was written' (η εφημερίδα έγραφε ότι ... it was written in the newspaper that ...)

Thirdly, the choice of aspect may be connected with other elements in the context:

a) Inside the same clause:
- adverbials such as κάθε μέρα, 'every day', συνέχεια 'continuously', συνήθως 'usually', are almost invariably combined with the imperfective aspect.
- subordinate clauses introduced by πριν or προτού, 'before', almost invariably have the verb in the perfective non-past (see p. 100).
- some adverbial expressions have two (or more) senses, at least one of which does not combine with the perfective aspect, e.g.:

	with both aspects	*only with imperfective*
ακόμα	besides, also, yet	still
τακτικά	orderly	regularly

Examples:

διάβασα ακόμα Σολωμό   'I also read (the poet) Solomos'.
διάβαζα ακόμα Σολωμό   'I was also/ still reading Solomos'.

(in the sense of 'also' και is often added: διάβασα ακόμα και Σολωμό).

b) One verb governing the aspect of another verb (subordination with the introductive να).
        As the imperfective aspect is almost always grammatically possible, three main groups can be distinguished:
The governing verb selects:
1) να + imperfective exclusively: αρχίζω να τρώω 'I begin to eat'.
2) να + imperfective predominantly: σε είδα να τρως 'I saw you eating'.
3) να + free choice of aspect (excluding the use of perfective past):
        θέλω να τρώω/να φάω 'I want to eat'.
        θα ήθελα να έτρωγα 'I wish I could eat'.
4) να + free choice of aspect (including the use of perfective past):
        ελπίζω να τρως/να φας 'I hope you'll eat'.
        ελπίζω να έτρωγες/να έφαγες 'I hope you ate/have eaten'.
        For more details see chapter 8.

5.2. Imperfective non-past: λύνω/λύνομαι

The imperfective non-past is in four respects the basic form of the verbal system:

a)   because it exists. Some verbs have no perfective (e.g. ανήκω, ξέρω), some only with difficulty form an imperfective past (e.g. εξαρτώμαι). But almost all verbs have an imperfective non-past[19].

b)   because it is the entry form used in all dictionaries.

c)   because it is the only form that may be used in any clause; it must be used in some (e.g. αρχίζω να ...). As to the opposition between Impf.NP and Perf.NP, see especially p. 32.

d)   because it is the form that expresses 'present tense'.

Traditionally it was termed 'present indicative' when used in syntagms not admitting of perfective non-past, and 'present subjunctive' in most syntagms admitting of perfective non-past (e.g. mostly, but not always, after να). This distinction (γράφει or γράφη) had serious consequences for orthography until the reform of 1976, when it was decided that all verbal endings in [-i] should be written -ει.

5.2.1. Present tense

The Impf.NP refers to what happens 'now' (i.e. simultaneously with the utterance), usually or generally; it is also used as a 'dramatic' present tense instead of a past tense:

Κυρ λοχαγέ, με σφάζουνε, φωνάζει ο φαντάρος.
    'Captain, they are killing me, cries (= cried) the private'.

Το μεγάλο ψάρι τρώει το μικρό, εμείς όμως τρώμε και το μικρό και το μεγάλο.
    'The big fish eats the small one, but we eat both the small and the big one'.

The Impf.NP also refers to what has been going on and is still going on:

Από τις επτά μαγειρεύει.
    'She has been cooking since seven o'clock'.

Το προσπαθώ τόσα χρόνια να κόψω το τσιγάρο.
    'I have been trying for years and years to stop smoking'.

The Impf.NP may also refer to the future, being thus equivalent to θα + Impf.NP, or – more often – to θα + Perf.NP. It stresses either the imminent realization or the certainty of the event:

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[19] Triantafyllidis § 964 cites two aorists (perfectives) which have no imperfectives· έδραμα and έμασα. The first is hardly used at all, the second is a rare variant of μάζεψα from μαζεύω.

Σε μισή ώρα φτάνουμε (= θα φτάσουμε).
    'We'll be there in half an hour'.

Φεύγετε αύριο; (= θα φύγετε;)
    'Are you leaving tomorrow?'

Φεύγουμε can also express mutual exhortation: 'Let us go', equivalent to να φύγουμε. No other verb shows this use, but cf. the Perf.NP πάμε 'Let us go'.

The Impf.NP can also have a potential meaning, expressing that what is referred to can happen or can be done or has that property:

Το αμάξι μου τρέχει πολύ.   Το μαχαίρι κόβει καλά.
'My car is very fast'.   'The knife is sharp'.

Το παράθυρο δεν ανοίγει.   Δεν γίνεται.
'The window does not open'.   'It is impossible, it cannot be done'.

Πίνεται αυτό το νερό;   Ενοικιάζεται διαμέρισμα.
'Is this water drinkable?'   'Flat for rent'.

Δεν λέγεται.
'You cannot say so' (cf. French: cela ne se dit pas).

With a person as subject, the Impf.NP can refer to what the subject is willing to do:

Εγώ δεν παντρεύομαι.
'I will not marry'.

5.3. Perfective non-past: λύσω/λυθώ

The perfective non-past plays a very important role in Modern Greek. It is by far the most frequent form used after θα and να (see statistics on p. 71) and generally has a widespread use. Let us for instance look at four lines from Kazantzakis' novel Ο Φτωχούλης του Θεού:

Εγώ θα μείνω όλη τη μέρα εδώ, στη σπηλιά. Θέλω να παρακαλέσω το Θεό, έχω πολλά να του πω, να μου δώσει δύναμη· γκρεμός μπροστά μου, πώς να πηδήξω; κι αν δεν πηδήξω, πώς θα μπορέσω να φτάσω το Θεό;
    'I'll stay all day here in the cave. I want to ask God, I have a lot to tell him, to give me strength. In front of me there is an abyss, how can I jump? And if I do jump, how can I reach God?'

Out of 10 verbal forms in this normal prose text, 8 are perfective non-past, and any page of Modern Greek will confirm the importance of this form.

But on the other hand, it never constitutes by itself a complete verbal expression: μείνω or φάω without any introductive are grammatically impossible. The only exceptions to this are:

-     The second person plural, which often in the active and always in the perfective mediopassive coincides with the imperative: φάτε! 'eat!' κοιμηθείτε! 'sleep!'.
-     Phrases of the type φύγεις δεν φύγεις 'whether you leave or not' (see 5.3.3).

5.3.1. Use of the perfective non-past

The perfective non-past is used in main and subordinate clauses, if preceded by at least one of the following introductives:

	meaning	*remarks*
ας	concession, exhortation	in subord. frequently preceded by και
και ας (κι ας)	= even though:	see p. 119.
θα	futurity	see p. 58.
ίσως	'maybe', 'perhaps'	see p. 79.
μη	'don't', 'lest'	see p. 129.
μήπως	'I wonder if' 'maybe?'	interrogative
	'lest'	introductory particle, see p. 131.
μπας και	= μήπως	popular expression.

The perfective non-past is furthermore used in temporal, conditional and indefinite relative clauses without any of the above listed introductives. Thus, we find it after:

άμα	if, when	σαν	as (soon as), when
αν (εάν)	if	σε περίπτωση που	in case (that)
αφού	after, when	ώσπου	until
είτε ... είτε	whether ..or		
έτσι και	if, when	όποιος	whoever
μόλις	as soon as	όποτε	whenever
όταν	when	όπου	wherever
πριν	before	όσος	as much/many as
προτού	before	ό,τι	whatever

All these introductives except πριν and προτού may be followed by θα.

Remarks:
-     To the list may be added που in the sense of 'whoever' (see p. 111).
-     πριν and προτού can be followed by να (see p. 100).
-     σαν must be distinguished from σαν να = 'as if', which does not combine with Perf.NP (see p. 101).
-     the indefinite relatives can be followed by να, και να or και αν (see p. 115). όπως + Perf.NP is not much used. The katharevousa use of όπως to introduce final clauses is rare today: παρακαλώ όπως με συγχωρήσετε 'I beg you to pardon me'.
-     ώσπου and its synonym μέχρι που are usually followed by να (see p. 109).

5.3.2. The meaning of the perfective non-past

The perfective non-past refers to an action or to actions not perceived in their duration or state of non-completion, as opposed to the imperfective non-past. The choice between the two aspects usually comes out in favour of the perfective, unless special stress is to be laid on the non-completion or repetition of the action. The perfective is certainly the 'unmarked' aspect:

Δεν έχουνε να φάνε 'they have nothing to eat': the perfective states the fact, although the sentence may refer to a permanent state of famine.

Πήγαινα να εξομολογηθώ τακτικά κάθε Σάββατο 'I went to confession every Saturday'. Here, the subordinate clause refers to each single confession viewed as a whole (see also p. 26).
The perfective non-past refers either to a general case or to a future case, situated at any time other than the present moment[20]. When referring to future time, the Perf.NP can always be preceded by θα, except after ας, μη, να, πριν, and προτού, after which θα is excluded. Thus, 'as soon as I drink' is translated into Greek by:

– μόλις πίνω (imperfective) = 'as soon as I drink / start drinking'.
– μόλις πιω (perfective) meaning either 'whenever I have got a glass'
        or 'when I have got a drink (later on)'
– μόλις θα πιω – being explicitly future.

The difference between the two aspects may be very slight:

Τα κουνούπια γίνονται οι καθημερινοί δυνάστες μας μόλις σουρουπώσει (...).
Θυμηθείτε να κλείνετε τα παράθυρα μόλις ανάβετε τα φώτα.
'(During summer time) the mosquitoes become our daily tyrants as soon as it gets dark. (...) Don't forget to close the windows as soon as you put the lights on.'

The perfective σουρουπώσει stresses the fact: when night has come. The imperfectives κλείνετε and ανάβετε underlines that this must be done every time and everywhere.

Below we will give first three examples of sentences where both aspects occur, then examples of Perf.NP referring to future time and finally examples of 'general case'.

'Ο,τι θέλω, ό,τι θελήσω, εδώ είναι 'everything I want or shall want is here'. The Perf.NP θελήσω, excluding the present situation, refers to the future; the Impf.NP includes the present, without excluding the future.

Να κρυφτώ, να μη με βλέπουνε. Να μη με ιδούν, αλλιώς χάθηκα. 'I must hide, so that they cannot see me (Impf.NP). They must not discover me (Perf.NP), otherwise I am lost'. The soldier first thinks of the situation, where he cannot be seen; then of the moment when they might discover him ('Αγγελος Βλάχος).

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[20] ίσως + Perf NP seems always to refer to future time

Σπύρος: 'Άμα πίνω καφέ, δεν μπορώ να κοιμηθώ.
Κωστάκης: Εγώ άμα κοιμάμαι, δεν μπορώ να πιω καφέ.

> 'Spyros: When I drink coffee, I cannot sleep.
> Kostakis: Me, when I sleep, I cannot drink coffee'.

πίνω (impf) stresses the repetition: 'whenever I drink'; it could also mean: 'when I am drinking' – the way Spyros understands it; the perfective πιω could have been used as well, emphasizing the completion: after a cup of coffee I cannot fall asleep – but there would have been no joke.
κοιμηθώ here means 'fall asleep'. The impf. κοιμάμαι would mean: 'I cannot be asleep', which is nonsense. κοιμάμαι means 'I am asleep'. The perfective κοιμηθώ would either mean: 'when I have fallen asleep' or' when I have slept' (which is not funny). πιω = 'drink' (neutral). πίνω would mean 'be drinking'.

Examples of Perf.NP referring to future time:

Θα το δεις και συ άμα παντρευτείς
> 'You will also see that when you marry'.

'Άμα σε χρειαστώ, θα σε φωνάξω.
> 'If I need you, I'll call you'.

Αν έρθει η νύχτα πριν φτάσουμε σε χωριό, θα σταματήσουμε.
> 'If night falls before we reach a village, we'll halt'.

Αν δεν αλλάξεις κουβέντα, θα λιποθυμήσω.
> 'If you do not change the subject, I'll faint'.

Θα πολεμώ ωσότου μου πούνε: Φεύγα!
> 'I'll continue to fight until they say: leave!'.

Examples referring to general cases:

Τινάζομαι όταν θυμηθώ τις κακές στιγμές της ζωής μου.
> 'I jump up whenever I remember the bad moments of my life' (the perfective indicates the coming into the mind).

Μόλις πιω, ξερνάω.
> 'As soon as I drink, I vomit'.

Ο μισθός του δημόσιου υπαλλήλου είναι ίδιος είτε δουλέψει είτε δεν δουλέψει.
> 'The wages of the civil servant is the same whether he works or not'
> (The perfective stresses that he is paid after haveing or even after having not worked).

'Όποιος πιει το αθάνατο νερό, γίνεται αθάνατος.
> 'Whoever drinks the immortal water becomes immortal'.
> (See further examples with όποιος p. 115)

'Όλοι οι άνθρωποι είναι όπως τους πάρεις.
> 'All people are as you take them'.

Γοργώνω το βήμα μου κάθε που δω νεκρό. (Καζαντζάκης)
　　　'I quicken my step every time I see a corpse'.

5.3.3. Special constructions

a) Constructions of the type φύγεις δεν φύγεις.

One idiomatic expression can take a Perf.NP without introductive, viz. two verbal forms in the same aspect, tense, number and person, referring to two actions in opposition to each other. Often it is a verb followed by the same verb negated:

φύγεις δεν φύγεις (= είτε φύγεις είτε δεν φύγεις)
　　　'whether you leave or not'....

or followed by a verb of contrary meaning:

φύγεις μείνεις ...
　　　'whether you leave or stay ....'.

As is seen, the construction expresses indifference and is equivalent to a subordinate concessive clause: no matter whether ... or ...

The Perf.NP generally refers to future time:

Θα πεθάνω πιω δεν πιω.
　　　'I'll die whether I drink or not'.

Αλλ' εγώ, βρέξει χιονίσει, πρέπει να πληρώσω το νοίκι μου.
　　　'But I have to pay my rent, no matter whether it rains or snows'.

But this construction is by no means restricted to Perf.NP:

Σ' ενοχλεί δεν σ' ενοχλεί, εσύ θα την έχεις ταγάρι (τη γυναίκα σου) σ'όλη σου τη ζωή
　　　'Whether she bothers you or not, you'll have her (your wife) as a rucksack on your back all your life'.

Πονούσε δεν πονούσε (το χέρι μου), δεν είχα να διαλέξω.
　　　'No matter whether my hand hurt or not, I had no choice'.

Often, however, the meaning is 'indifference as to the exactness of the given information', 'roughly', 'approximately' or 'only with difficulty'. In this sense, where the Perf.NP is hardly used, the phrase can function as a main verb, but may also, as with the 'no matter' sense be equivalent to a subordinate clause. The inferential θα is often added:

Είναι δεν είναι 17 χρονών.
　　　'He is about 17 years old'.

Τότε του ήρθε, θα 'χε δεν θα 'χε περάσει περίπου ένα τέταρτο, η απιθυμία να κατουρήσει.
　　　'Then about a quarter of an hour later, he felt a desire to pee'.

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b) Μη στάξει και μη βρέξει originally means: it must not drip and must not rain (on …). It is used as an object predicate to indicate that the object is protected with an excessive care:

Την κόρη τους την είχανε μη στάξει και μη βρέξει.
    'They pampered their daughter'.

Τα βιβλία του τα φύλαγε μη στάξει και μη βρέξει.
    'He fussed over his books'.

5.3.4. The verb πηγαίνω/πάω

The perfective non-past πάω[21] 'go' constitutes a special case.
In many contexts it seems to have lost its perfective value and is used as a rather colloquial synonym to πηγαίνω:

πού πας; (= πού πηγαίνεις;)
    'Where are you going?'

Πάντα κάπου τα βράδια με πας.
    'You always take me out somewhere in the evening'.

Η μπλούζα σού πάει θαυμάσια.
    'The blouse suits you marvellously'.

It has, however, one use of its own, with a perfective sense, thus excluding the imperfective πηγαίνω: 'it's gone, it's over'. It is usually only found in the third person:

Πάει, τέλειωσαν όλα για μένα.
    'That's it, it's all over for me'.

Πάνε τα λεφτά μας.
    'Our money is gone'.

Πάνε περίπατο τα κοσμήματά της.
    'Her jewellery is lost for good'.

The first person plural πάμε expresses mutual exhortation: 'let us go!'

5.4. Imperfective past: έλυνα/λυνόμουν

The Greek imperfective past corresponds roughly to the English 'was.. -ing', 'used to' and 'would':

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[21] That πάω is a perfective and not an imperfective, is proved by the fact that the infinite form of πάω is πάει, whereas the gerund πηγαίνοντας belongs to the imperfective πηγαίνω There is no form *πάοντας The past tense πήγα functions as a genuine perfective past, in opposition to the imperfective πήγαινα. The regular imperative is only formed from the imperfective πήγαινε, πηγαίνετε.

(1)   It refers to an uncompleted action or uncompleted actions situated in the past, usually seen in relation to another action, specified or understood:
                    έγραφα = 'I was writing'.

(2)   It refers to repeated actions in the past, not viewed in their totality:
                    έγραφα = 'I used to write, I would write'.

(3)   It is employed with a modal value to express past future, unreal or improbable wishes and conditions.
                    έγραφα = 'I would write, I should write'.

Sometimes in case (2), mostly in case (3), the Impf.Past will be preceded by θα (in wishes by να). Θα and Impf.Past is also treated on page 62 ff.

This classification, however, pays more regard to the English equivalences than to Greek linguistic sentiment, according to which the examples below will be given in two groups:
–   past tense: Impf.Past in opposition to other past or present tenses: (1) and (2)
–   modal uses: (3).

5.4.1. Past tense

Impf.Past and Perf.Past.

a) The imperfective gives the background or refers to events that used to happen, the perfective tells the simple events (Im = imperfective, Pf = perfective):

Μία μέρα περπατούσε (Im) και προς το βράδυ φάνηκε (Pf) το θεριό
        'He walked for one day, and towards evening the monster appeared'.

Όσον καιρό θερίζαμε (Im), "Βασίλη" και "Βασίλη",
και σαν αποθερίσαμε (Pf), "όξω, μωρέ κασσίδη!"
        'As long as we were harvesting, we would shout "dear Vassilis, dear Vassilis", and when we had finished, "get out, you rascal!" (proverb).

Βρήκε (Pf) το βασιλιά που κάθονταν (Im) σ' ένα θρόνο.
        'He found the King sitting on a throne'. (So generally after verbs of sensation, see p. 84 and 124).

Αρχίσαμε (Pf) να τρώμε, πεινούσαμε (Im) κι οι δυό.
        'We started eating, both of us were hungry'.

Τον πρώτο καιρό (στη φυλακή) έδειχνα (Im) πολύ ευτυχής κι όλο χαμογελούσα (Im) στους άλλους ... ακόμα και στους φύλακες, ώσπου κάποιος μου άστραψε (Pf) μια σφαλιάρα γιατί νόμιζε (Im) πως τον κοροϊδεύω. Μετά (...) όταν επιχειρούσα (Im) να χαμογελάσω, έβγαινε (Im) μια γκριμάτσα φριχτή, και με τον καιρό το πρόσωπό μου έπηξε (Pf) τσιμέντο.

'In the beginning (when in prison) I acted very happy, I was smiling all the time to the others ... even to the guards, until somebody slapped my face, because he thought I was mocking him. Later ... whenever I attempted to smile, a horrible grimace came out, and as time went by my face stiffened like cement'.

There are two perfectives: the slapping which happened once and the final stiffening. The rest are descriptive imperfectives, but notice the Perf.NP χαμογελάσω, referring to each single attempt at smiling.

Εκείνοι όπου πολεμούσαν, εκεί πολέμησαν, και ύστερα τον Δράμαλη.
> 'Those who took part in the war fought there, and later (they fought) against Dramalis' (Μακρυγιάννης).

b) The Perf.Past gives the 'total', states the fact, the Impf.Past describes the details:

Καθίσαμε (Pf) ώρες και μου μιλούσε (Im) συνέχεια.
> 'We sat there for hours and he was talking to me non-stop'.

Τρεις μέρες κάθησεν (Pf) εκεί ο καλόγερος και περνούσε (Im) καλά.
> 'The monk stayed there for three days and had (lit. 'was having') a good time'.

c) The Perf.Past gives the starting point, the Impf.Past the future development:

Όλοι σηκώθηκαν στο πόδι και γύρευαν ψωμί από τη μάνα τους.
> 'They all got up and began asking their mother for bread'.

So always with άρχισε και + Impf.Past = άρχισε να + Impf.NP:

Άρχισε και νύχτωνε = άρχισε να νυχτώνει.
> 'It began to get dark'.

Diagrammatically the three relations might be illustrated thus:

Perfective	Imperfective	
event(s)	background	Pf ǀ ǀ ǀ ǀ Im _____
totality	details	Pf ǀ_____ǀ Im: ....
start	development	Pf Im ǀ ....

d) Verbs of communication (λέω, δηλώνω, γράφω etc.) constitute a particular case. In this group the past tense of both aspects can be used referring to a single completed utterance:

Ο Υπουργός δήλωνε/δήλωσε ότι ...
        'The minister declared that ...'

Η εφημερίδα έγραφε/έγραψε ότι ...
        'The newspaper wrote that ...'

Όπως ο Κ.Π. έλεγε/είπε σε συνέντευξή του στην τηλεόραση, ...
        'As stated by K.P. during an interview on TV, ...'.

The (less frequent) imperfective appears to emphasise the meaning or message, while the perfective refers directly to the utterance (the source of information). But the difference is often slight and difficult to determine, even for the speaker himself/herself.

Impf.Past and Impf.NP

A habitual action or a situation in the past is contrasted with the present (or with the future: θα + Impf.NP):

Πέρυσι διάβαζα, φέτος γλεντάω.
        'Last year I was studying, this year I'm having fun'.

Ο Καντ θαύμαζε την αρμονία στον ουρανό κι εγώ για τον ίδιο χώρο σκέφτομαι πράγματα τελείως άλλα.
        'Kant admired the harmony of the heavens, but I think completely
        different things about the same space'.

Έτσι ήμουν, έτσι είμαι, κι έτσι θα 'μαι.
        'That's how I was, that's how I am, that's how I will [always] be'.

A special case is constituted by the 'dramatic' present, so much used in folk tales. It is normally equivalent to an Perf.Past:

Κει που έτρωγε, να κι έρχεται ένας ναύτης και του λέει: .....
        'And just as he was eating, a sailor comes and says to him: ..'..

Impf.Past and Impf.Past.

Two or more imperfective pasts can express the connection between habitual actions of the past:

Από μικρό που κατάλαβα (Pf) τον εαυτό μου μεγάλωνα με το τραγούδι, έπεφτα να κοιμηθώ, τραγούδαγα, ξύπναγα τραγούδαγα, περπάταγα τραγούδαγα, εγέρασα (Pf) και ακόμα τραγουδάω ...

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'Since my childhood, as far back as I can remember, I grew up singing, I went to bed singing, I woke up singing, I walked singing, I have grown old and I am still singing ..'..

Κάθε πρωί μόλις έφτανε στο γραφείο, άνοιγε τα γράμματα.
'Every morning, as soon as he arrived at his office, he would open the letters' (corresponding to present time: Κάθε πρωί μόλις φτάνει/φτάσει στο γραφείο, ανοίγει τα γράμματα – see also p. 26).

Όποιος τύχαινε να περάσει, τον έτρωγαν οι δράκοι.
'Whoever happened to pass by, was eaten by the ogres' (with perfectives: όποιος έτυχε ... τον έφαγαν, the sentence would refer to a definite period, e.g. that day).

The Impf.NP also refers to what had been going on and was still continuing:

Από τις επτά μαγείρευε.
'She had been cooking since seven o'clock'.

The 'characterizing' Impf.Past

(cf. also Impf.NP p. 30)

Το νερό πινόταν.
'The water was drinkable'.

Το ντουλάπι δεν άνοιγε.
'The cupboard did not open (could not be opened)'.

The above classification pretends by no means to be exhaustive. In many cases the choice of aspect is a question of usage rather than of grammar.

5.4.2. Impf.Past in modal use

The imperfective past is also used in a potential-conditional sense, ranging from hesitating statements to counterfactual hypotheses. In this use there is no opposition of aspect, the modal imperfective past covering both the perfective and the imperfective "indicative".

In combination with the future mark θα we get:

Θα φορώ ένα καπέλο
'I'll wear a hat'
θα φορέσω ένα καπέλο
'I'll put on a hat', both becoming:
θα φορούσα ένα καπέλο
'I would wear/put on a hat'.

This use occurs:

a) in main clauses without θα, να or ας:

usually only with a few verbs:

ήθελα	I would like
έπρεπε	(one) ought to
μπορούσα	I could, I might
καλό ήταν	it would be a good thing (and similar expressions)

Πόσο ήθελα κι εγώ να ταξιδέψω.
        'How I should like to go abroad myself'.

Rarely with other verbs:

Δεν τον έπαιρνα, να μου χαρίζανε τον ουρανό με τ' άστρα.
        'I would not marry him, even if I were given the sky with all the
        stars' (from a fairy tale).

In the latter example it would be normal, in the others possible, to insert a θα
without any change of meaning:
Δεν θα τον έπαιρνα /θα ήθελα /καλό θα ήταν.

b) θα + Impf.Past forming conditional expressions and past future:

Αν ερχόσουνα στην εκκλησία πιο συχνά, θα το 'ξερες.
        'If you came to church more often, you would know'.

c) Να (and ας) + Impf.Past

and 'modified'

Μακάρι να ήμουν νέος!
        'If only I were young'.

In subordinate clauses mostly governed by verbs ' in the 'potential'

Θα προτιμούσα να μ' άφηνες να φύγω.
        'I would prefer that you let me go'.

Also frequently when να is equivalent to αv:
Να μη σε γνώριζα, θα σε πίστευα.

d) in conditional clauses:

Αν είχα λεφτά, θα πήγαινα στο κομμωτήριο.
       'If I had money, I would go to the hairdresser'.

5.5. Perfective past (simple past): έλυσα/λύθηκα

The perfective past is the usual past tense, referring to a completed action or state (or completed actions or states) belonging to the past or regarded as accomplished at the moment of the utterance. Thus: Μπήκα στη φυλακή με τη θέλησή μου either states a fact about the past: 'I went to prison voluntarily' (corresponding to the passé simple of literary French): j'allai; or states a fact which has been brought to a conclusion at the present time: 'I have come to this prison voluntarily' – and is exchangeable with the perfect: έχω μπει στη φυλακή.
Similarly, in temporal clauses the perfective past is exchangeable with and translated by the pluperfect:
μόλις μπήκα = μόλις είχα μπει 'as soon as I had come in'.
It must, however, be stressed again that the expression of aspect is a much more important feature of the verb than the expression of relative time, the context showing the succession of events:

Άμα έπεσε η νύχτα, μαζευτήκαμε γύρω από τη φωτιά.
       'When night fell (perfective, = had fallen), we gathered round the
       fireplace', whereas the Impf.Past: άμα έπεφτε η νύχτα would
       place the gathering at a moment during the falling of night: 'when
       night was falling'.

The perfective can refer to (a limited number of) repeated actions:

Φώναξα φώναξα, κανένας δεν φάνηκε.
       'I shouted and shouted, but nobody appeared'.

Άλλαξα γνώμη πολλές φορές.
       'I changed/have changed my mind many times'.

But, above all, the perfective past is the form used for relating what happened at a certain time:

Όταν έγινα τεσσάρων πέντε χρονών, με έστειλε ο πατέρας μου στο σχολείο. Αγάπησα τα γράμματα.
       'When I was four or five years old, my father sent me to school. At
       once I became fond of reading and writing' (Αγάπησα means: I fell
       in love with'. Αγαπούσα would mean: 'I (already) loved').

The predominance of the simple perfective over the periphrastic perfect is also seen in expressions concerning the course of the day and the year, where the perfective almost inevitably must be translated with a perfect in English:

ξημέρωσε	'day has broken'
νύχτωσε	'night has come, it's dark'
χειμώνιασε	'winter has come'.

Similarly in expressions of feelings:

βαρέθηκα να μαγειρεύω	'I'm tired of cooking'
τρόμαξα	'I got frightened (just now)'
χάρηκα πολύ[22]	'Pleased to have met you'.

Expressions of age:

δεν εγεννήθηκα κακός	'I was not born wicked'
γέρασε πολύ	'He has grown very old'.

In other cases the Perf.Past comes close to being synonymous with the Impf.NP and is translated by a present tense form. E.g. from the verb διψάω 'be thirsty':

> δίψασα 1) 'I got thirsty'
>   2) 'I have become thirsty' – and so:
>   3) 'I am thirsty', almost = διψάω.

Similarly:

κατάλαβα (from καταλαβαίνω) 'I have understood' = 'I understand'
νύσταξα (from νυστάζω) 'I have become sleepy' = 'I'm sleepy'
πείνασα (from πεινάω) 'I have become hungry' = 'I'm hungry'.

Thus used it states the naked fact of having become thirsty, sleepy etc., in opposition to the 'descriptive' Impf.NP and therefore cannot be modified by adverbs of intensity. 'I am very hungry' is: πεινάω πολύ, whereas πείνασα πολύ means: '(then) I got very hungry'.

Finally, the Perf.Past can be used referring to the future to stress the certainty of the result of some action:

Να μη με ιδούν, ειδεμή χάθηκα.
> 'They must not discover me, otherwise I am lost' (= θα είμαι χαμένος).

'Εβγα όξω, αλλιώς σε σκότωσα.
> 'Get out of here, otherwise you'll be a dead man!' (lit. "I have killed you").

Φύγαμε!
> 'Off we go!'

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[22] Said at leaving someone you have been introduced to At the beginning of the presentation the ancient imperfective active is used in formal speech χαίρω πολύ 'pleased to meet you'.

Ξηγημένοι λοιπόν: αν νικήσεις, νίκησα, αν χάσεις, έχασες.
> 'O.K. agreed: If you win, I am the winner, if you lose, you are the loser' (says a political leader – in a satirical context – to a candidate of his party before the elections).

5.6. The gerund (imperfective infinite active): λύνοντας

The gerund is more frequent in written than in spoken language. It corresponds to a subordinate temporal or causal clause (γράφοντας = while/by writing), the subject normally being that of the main verb. When the context is clear, however, the gerund may have another subject, either understood from the context or explicitly expressed.
Except for the negative μη, which precedes the Gerund (see also p. 132), all other elements governed by it must follow. Occasionally, in high literary or poetical style, it can however be preceded by adverbs, pronouns, and the like.

Εκεί κάθονταν οι άντρες κουτσοπίνοντας και συζητώντας.
> 'There the men sat sipping their drinks and discussing'.

Με κοίταξε χαμογελώντας.
> 'He looked at me with a smile'.

Με χαιρέτησε δίνοντάς μου το χέρι.
> 'He greeted me by shaking my hand'.

Εξετάζοντας κανείς το κεφάλι μαθαίνει αν ένα ψάρι είναι φρέσκο ή όχι.
> 'By examining the head you can tell whether or not a fish is fresh'.

Μην ξέροντας ελληνικά δεν μπόρεσε να μάθει τι τρέχει.
> 'Not knowing Greek, he could not understand what was going on'.

With another subject than that of the main verb:

Τρώγοντας έρχεται η όρεξη.
> 'Eating whets the appetite'.

Εγώ ζώντας του πατέρα μου, το θυμάμαι πλούσιο το σπίτι.
> 'I remember the house as rich in my father's day' (lit. when my father was living – the absolute construction with the subject in the genitive case is an imitation of the Ancient Greek genitive absolute).

Μπαίνοντας ο χειμώνας γυρίσαμε στην Αθήνα.
> 'In the beginning of winter we returned to Athens'.

Preceded by other elements than the negative:

Έτσι τραγουδώντας ο Παπα-Γιάνναρος έφτασε σε μια φτωχικιά καλύβα.
>'Singing like that Papa Yannaros came to a poor cottage (Καζαντζάκης).

Και έρχεσαι εσύ μια τελευταία λέξη ζητώντας.
>'And you come here, asking for a last word' (Χατζής: Το διπλό βιβλίο).

The gerund is used in some stock expressions:

βλέποντας και κάνοντας ....
>lit. "Seeing and doing" = 'wait and see'.

... και πάει λέγοντας.
>'and so on'.

The gerund is not rare in book titles:

"Διαβάζοντας τις βυζαντινές εικόνες"
>'Reading Byzantine icons'.

5.7. Perfective infinite (απαρέμφατο): λύσει/λυθεί and the perfect system

The perfective infinite is an uninflected form, always preceded by some form of έχω. This combination constitutes the perfect and pluperfect system:

	active	*mediopassive*
perfect	έχω πληρώσει 'I have paid'	έχω πληρωθεί 'I have been paid'
pluperfect	είχα πληρώσει 'I had paid'	είχα πληρωθεί 'I had been paid'
imperative	(έχε πληρώσει)	(έχε πληρωθεί)
gerund	έχοντας πληρώσει 'having paid'	έχοντας πληρωθεί 'having been paid'

The imperative is hardly used at all. For the perfect infinite (gerund of the perfect) see 5.7.3.

Tense (mood), person, and number are indicated by the form of έχω, and the Perf.Inf. indicates the voice. The aspect of the compound expression is more

difficult to decide: ἔχω is an imperfective. Consequently the past form εἶχα, if preceded by θα, can have a modal sense, which the Perf.Past cannot have. But on the other hand the infinite *is* a perfective, referring to completed action(s). This double aspect explains why the the pluperfect is sometimes exchangeable with the imperfective past, sometimes with a perfective past (see below).

5.7.1. Perfect: ἔχω γράψει

The perfect tense refers to an action that is perceived as being in a state of completion:

a) 'now', at the moment of the utterance, often exchangeable with an Perf.Past.

b) in relation to a subsequent action (actions), situated in the 'not-past', referring to a general case or to future time. In subordinate temporal clauses it is exchangeable with an Perf.NP.

Examples:

a)   Δεν έχω ντυθεί ακόμα = δεν ντύθηκα ακόμα.
                'I have not dressed yet'.

        Ποιος άλλος δεν έχει πάρει εισιτήριο;
                'Fares, please!'

        Έχεις πάει στα Γιάννενα;
                'Have you been to Yannina?'

        Πόσες φορές έχετε ξανάρθει στην Ελλάδα;
                'How often have you been to Greece?'

b)   Τα βράδια όταν έχουμε πια φάει μπόλικη φέτα και αλλαντικά, διηγείται ιστορίες που κάποια στιγμή θα γίνουν τραγούδια.
                In the evening, when we have eaten a lot of feta cheese and sausages, he tells stories, which some time will become songs'.

        Οι απεργίες θα αρχίσουν τη Δευτέρα, 24 Οκτωβρίου, οπότε θα έχουν τελειώσει και οι εκλογές.
                The strike will start on Monday October 24th, and at that time elections will be over.'

For more examples with θα and perfect see p. 66.

5.7.2. Pluperfect: είχα γράψει

The pluperfect is used:
a) to refer to an action or to actions, perceived as being in a state of completion some time in the past, usually in relation to some other action or state. In subordinate temporal clauses it is thus often interchangeable with an Perf.Past (cf. p. 41) – or, if referring to repeated occurrences, with an Impf.Past:

Η νύχτα ήτανε γλυκιά, ο βοριάς είχε πάψει.
'The night was mild; the north wind had dropped'.

Τον είχα δει κάθε φορά που έβγαινα στο δρόμο.
'I had seen him every time I went out in the street'.

Αφού είχα γράψει πέντε μυθιστορήματα, διαπίστωσα ότι πουθενά δεν μιλούσα για τα παιδικά μου χρόνια.
'After having written five novels I realised that I did not talk about my childhood anywhere'.

Δεν ήμουν ο πρώτος που της είχε μιλήσει για γάμο.
'I was not the first man who had talked to her about marrying'.

Χθες μόλις είχα ντυθεί (= μόλις ντύθηκα) ....
'Yesterday, as soon as I was dressed ...'.

Κάθε πρωί μόλις είχα ντυθεί (= μόλις ντυνόμουν) ....
'Every morning, as soon as I was dressed ...'.

The pluperfect may, however, also stress that the action is definitely past, without relation to any other past action. This use might be termed 'remote past':

Φέτος πλήττουμε. Πέρυσι είχαμε περάσει τόσο ωραίες μέρες μαζί.
'This year we are bored. Last year we spent (lit. had spent) such marvellous days together'.

– Όχι, όχι, δεν πάω σε καμία δεξίωση.
– Νομίζω πως είχαμε μείνει σύμφωνοι.
'– No, no I am not going to any reception.
– I thought (lit. think) we had agreed on that'.

b) in modal use, like Impf.Past, but emphasizing what would have been the result or situation. It is therefore only used in statements contrary to facts:

– θα + pluperfect: unreal apodosis:

Χωρίς εσένα θα είχα χαθεί μέσα στο δάσος.
'Without you I would have been lost in the woods'. See also p. 67.

– να + pluperfect, often in wishes:

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Παρασκευή ξημέρωσε, ποτέ να μη είχε φέξει.
    'Friday dawned – would that it never had got light'. See also p. 73.

– pluperfect in conditional clauses:
Αν αυτός δε μ' είχε τραβήξει, θα πνιγόμουνα.
    'If he had not pulled me out (of the water), I would have drowned'.

The pluperfect is more frequent than the perfect, but both of them are less used than the corresponding English tenses, because of the dominant part played by the aspectual differences.

5.7.3. Perfect gerund: έχοντας γράψει

The perfect gerund was disapproved by traditional demoticists (Tzartzanos, vol. 1, p. 339), but is not unusual in modern written language:

Οι τρεις φίλοι έχοντας τελειώσει τη δουλειά τους αρκετά νωρίς, είχαν κλείσει την πόρτα που χώριζε τα γραφεία από το προθάλαμο.
    'The three friends, having finished their work rather early, had closed the door that separated the offices from the hall'.

Έχοντας πετύχει το σκοπό του νοίκιασε ένα μικρό σπίτι στο Ίνσμπρουκ.
    'Having obtained his aim, he rented a small house at Innsbruck'.

5.7.4. Word order

Ας, να, μη, δεν, and θα and unstressed pronouns precede έχω; the Perf.Inf. always follows έχω, usually immediately after. Adverbs like κιόλας or ήδη 'already', ποτέ 'never', σχεδόν 'almost', βεβαίως 'of course', and όμως 'however' can be inserted; the insertion of "heavier" words belongs to poetical or high literary style:

Δεν σου το είχα υποσχεθεί ποτέ = Δεν σου το είχα ποτέ υποσχεθεί.
    'I had never promised it to you'.

Η γριά είχε κιόλας σηκωθεί.
    'The old woman had already got up'.

Έχω κατά καιρούς διαβάσει βιβλία που με εντυπωσίασαν.
    'From time to time I have read books, that impressed me'.

Είχαν εδώ κι εκεί ανάψει φωτιές.
    'Here and there they had lighted fires' (Beratis).

In poetical language:
Έχει στον κήπο μου μια μυγδαλιά φυτρώσει.
    'In my garden an almond tree has come up' (Καρυωτάκης).

5.7.5. The perfect participle: γραμμένος

The perfect participle in -μένος is used as an object predicative in combination with έχω in a sense that comes very close to the active perfect and pluperfect, but stressing even further the notion of state resulting from the action:

Έχω εξασφαλισμένο το μέλλον μου.
    I have my future secured'.

Τα 'χω χαμένα.
    'I feel lost'.

Τα πουλιά είχαν χωμένο το κεφάλι κάτω από τη φτερούγα και κοιμούνταν.
    'The birds had put their head under the wing and were sleeping'.

Formerly this construction was used more freely:

Εμένα ούτε Ιταλός ούτε άλλος μ' έχει φιλημένη ακόμη, εξόν ο άντρας μου.
    'I have been kissed neither by an Italian nor by any other man except my husband'.

Έχω πληρωμένα τα εισιτήρια.
    'I have the tickets paid' = I have paid the tickets.

5.8. Imperative expressions

5.8.1. Orders and prohibitions

Orders are usually expressed by:
– the imperative mood: second person only.
– να + a non-past form: all persons.
– να + Impf.Past: see p. 52 and 73.

But the imperative cannot be negated. *Prohibitions* are expressed by a non-past form preceded by μη or να μη.

In the first and third person, but rarely in the second person[23], ας (μη) is also used ('let ..'.).

For the second person sg. we thus get the following possibilities in the active:

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[23]E.g. with the Impf.Past Ας μας τό'λεγες 'You should have told us'.

	Order: 'write!'	*Prohibition:* 'don't write!'
imperfective	γράφε να γράφεις	μη γράφεις να μη γράφεις
perfective	γράψε να γράψεις	μη γράψεις να μη γράψεις

Unstressed personal pronouns follow the imperative forms:

γράψε μού το![24] (but: να μου το γράψεις!) 'write it to me'.

For the third person sg. we get:

	Order: 'let him write!'	*Prohibition:* 'don't let him write!'
imperfective	να γράφει ας γράφει	να μη γράφει ας μη γράφει
perfective	να γράψει ας γράψει	να μη γράψει ας μη γράψει

The semantic difference between the imperative and the να-constructions is often slight and depends on intonation, etc. On the whole, however, the imperative refers to the actual situation or its immediate consequences and has a rather urgent tone, while the να-constructions are used in more general statements or with a more polite tone. The distinction, of course, only applies in the cases where the imperative does exist, i.e. in the second person except in the imperfective medium (forms like κάθου 'keep sitting!' being quite exceptional). Aς on the other hand adds a concessive sense: "let them ... only, I don't care" or indifference as to the consequences ("it must be done – I don't care whether he likes it or not") or threat (ironical indifference) or impatience (indifference as to the preceding statement). In the first person pl. it expresses mutual exhortation:

Aς έρθει και αυτός.
　　　'Let him come too' (I don't care or mind).

Aν τολμούν, ας έρθουν!
　　　'Let them come if they dare!'

Aς έρθουμε τώρα στα πραγματικά προβλήματα.
　　　'(Well, then) let us now take up the real problems'.

Aς υποθέσουμε πως ....
　　　'Let us suppose that ...'.

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[24] But with syncopated forms γράψ'το μου, φέρ'το μου (= φέρε μού το)

5.8.2. Aspectual difference between the imperfective and perfective in order expressions.

In principle the aspectual value is maintained also in the imperative:

Αγοράζετε ελληνικά προϊόντα.
> 'Buy Greek products' (always: impferfective).

Αγοράστε δικό σας οικόπεδο.
> 'Buy your own building-plot!' (simple, single event: perfective).

Μην τον δέρνεις!
> 'Stop thrashing him!' or: 'Never thrash him!' (imperfective)

Μην τον δείρεις!
> 'Do not thrash him!' (as you intend to: perfective)

a) The *imperfective* is used:

I) where an action in progress is to be continued or discontinued.
In this sense, the imperative is, when possible, preferred to να-
expressions, in prohibitions μη + Impf.NP is preferred to να μη:

Γράφε πιο καθαρά!
> 'Write more clearly (than you are doing now)!'

Μην κλαις!
> 'Do not cry, stop crying!'

II) when the speaker wants an action to be started that is likely to develop or
continue:

Λέγε(τε)!
> 'Hello!' (telephone answer – lit.: Speak out, begin to talk! But with
a definite object the perfective is used: Πέστε μου τι θέλετε! 'Tell me what
you want').

Σου υπαγορεύω ... λοιπόν γράφε, γράφε, να ξεμπερδεύουμε.
> 'I dictate to you... come on, write, write, so that we can be done
> with it'.

III) in general admonitions, the actual situation being or not being implied.
Να + Impf.NP is often preferred:

Γράφετε ολίγα, καθαρά, ευανάγνωστα και οικογενειακά.
> 'Write briefly, clearly, legibly, about family concerns' (Prison
> regulations for prisoners' correspondence. The naked imperative
> gives a hard, brutal strain to the sentence, να γράφετε would have
> been less brutal).

Να σε βλέπω συχνότερα.
>'Let me see you more often'.

Ποτέ να μη φωνάζεις!
>'You must never shout!'

Μη με βάζεις να πλένω τα πιάτα όταν έρχεται ο κύριος Λόγγος.
>'Do not make me wash the dishes every time Mr Longos comes'.

b) The *perfective* refers to an action or to actions not yet in progress, whether to be begun immediately or in the more remote future, and viewed in their totality:

Αν μ' αγαπάς, πες μου το τίμια!
>'If you love me, tell it to me honestly!'

Πετάχτε μου το σκοινί. Όταν το κουνήσω τρεις φορές, ν' αρχίσετε να τραβάτε.
>'Throw the rope down to me. When I tug at it three times, you must begin to pull' (The imperative is an immediate order, the να-construction refers to a later action).

Μην αργήσεις!
>'Don't be late!'

Να καθίσεις εδώ και μην τολμήσεις να το κουνήσεις.
>'Sit down here. And don't you dare move away'.

Κύριε γυμνασιάρχη, να μη μας διώξετε ακόμη.
>'Sir ("Mr headmaster"), do not throw us out yet'.

c) Examples of *both aspects*.

Προσδεθείτε και μη καπνίζετε.
>'Fasten seat belts' (simple action: perfective). 'No smoking' (stop smoking and continue not to smoke: imperfective). In other aeroplanes the imperfective is also used with the first verb:
>(Να) προσδένεστε = 'Remain seated with seat belt fastened'.

Παναγιά μου, βοήθησέ με
και καλοξημέρωσέ με
στους γονείς μου δίνε υγεία
στ' αδελφάκια μου ευτυχία.
>'Virgin Mary, help me,
>let me wake up well tomorrow.
>Give health to my parents,
>and happiness to my brothers and sisters'.

The imperfective δίνε means 'continue to give', the perfective would imply that they were ill or unhappy.

d) *Neutralization of aspect*

In a number of cases the differences between the two aspects in imperative expressions seem very slight or even non-existing:

I) In advertisements and instructions for use etc. attention can be focused on the concrete action (perfective) or on the general rule (imperfective) without great difference. The use of perfective can be surprising:

Παραγωγοί: Φροντίστε τα προϊόντα σας να είναι καλής ποιότητας.
Καταναλωτές: Προτιμήστε ελληνικά προϊόντα και όλοι θα φάμε με χρυσά κουτάλια.
> 'Producers: Take care that your products are of good quality.
> Consumers: Prefer Greek products – and we'll all eat with golden spoons'.

Σε περίπτωση πυρκαγιάς χρησιμοποιήστε αφρό ανθεκτικό στο οινόπνευμα. Μη χρησιμοποιείτε ποτέ νερό.
> 'In case of fire use (perf.) alcohol-resistant foam. Never use (impf.) water'.

II) The imperfective imperatives in -α are aspectually neutral, so that e.g. κοίτα, μίλα, βόηθα ('look, speak, help') function both as imperfectives and as equivalents of κοίταξε, μίλησε, βοήθησε. The same holds good for άκου 'listen' and σήκω 'get up'. In the plural the aspectual distinction is usually maintained.

III) Verbs without active imperfective forms usually only have a perfective imperative. Thus, the only imperative of έρχομαι is έλα/ελάτε, of κάθομαι κάτσε/καθίστε, of κοιμάμαι κοιμήσου/κοιμηθείτε. They are sometimes used where an imperfective (with να) might be expected: καθίστε! 'sit down!' or 'don't get up, keep sitting!'

IV) The verb πηγαίνω has only one imperative in common Greek: πήγαινε/πηγαίνετε. But άμε and άντε function as a kind of perfective imperatives.

V) Να/ας + Impf.Past can be used for expressing:
– what should be done: a polite order or suggestion.
– what should have been done: an order concerning the past (in this case also the pluperfect may be used):

Πού είναι ο Γιάννης; Να τηλεφωνούσε στο γιατρό να έρθει.
> 'Where is John? I would like him to call the doctor'.

Γιατί δεν μου' πες τίποτα;
– Δεν ήρθες.
– Να μου τηλεφωνούσες.
> '- Why didn't you tell me anything? – You did not come! – You should have phoned me'.

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The expression is aspectually neutral, as is always the case with Impf.Past in modal use.

Here is finally a complex example (abbreviated), where both aspects occur intertwined:

Δεν σου τσιμπούν τα λιθρίνια στο σκουλήκι [....]; πέταξε από τ' αγκίστρι το σκουλήκι και δόλωνε καραβίδες [....] Ή βάλε στο ένα αγκίστρι καραβίδα και στο άλλο γαρίδα [....]. Αν δεν κάνεις τίποτα, άλλαξε το μέγεθος του δολώματος, βάζε δηλαδή δολώματα μεγαλύτερα ή μικρότερα. Αν κι αυτό δεν πιάσει, τότε άρχισε να δολώνεις ... παλαβά, κάρφωνε δηλαδή το δόλωμα όπως-όπως. Εάν [....] δεν γίνεται τίποτα, τότε μάζεψέ τα και τράβα μισό μίλι παραπέρα, ή βάλε πλώρη για την ταβέρνα και τράβηξε κανένα ποτήρι.

> 'The lithrins (a fish) do not bite at the worm? – pull the worms off the fish-hook and 'start-baiting' (Impf) with crayfish. Or put a crayfish on one hook and a shrimp on the other one. If you do not succeed, change the size of the bait, i.e. 'start-putting' bigger or smaller baits on. If this does not work either, then begin (Pf) to bait ... crazily, i.e. 'start-fixing' the bait somehow or other. If nothing comes out of it, then gather your tools and take your boat (Impf. in -α) half a mile further away – or make for the tavern and take a glass (Pf) of wine'.

– The imperfectives describe the repeated actions that should be done after the (single) action expressed by the immediately preceding perfective imperative.

Indirect command is expressed by a να-clause:

direct: *indirect:*

Φύγε! του είπα.   Του είπα να φύγει.
'Leave! I said to him'.   'I told him to leave'.

Της έγραψα: Μην κλαις!   Της έγραψα να μην κλαίει.
'I wrote to her: Don't cry!'   'I wrote to her, that she should not cry'.

Summary:

Imperfective:

λέγε!	1. go on speaking!
	2. start speaking!
	3. always speak!
μη θυμώνεις!	1. do not be angry!
	2. do not 'start-being-angry'!
	3. never be/get angry!

Perfective:

πες το!	say it!
μη θυμώσεις!	don't get angry!

5.8.3. Uses of the imperative forms

The imperative forms are used:

a) to express orders, advice, entreaty etc.: see above.

Notes:
1) Besides the regular perfective imperative of the verb αφήνω 'let', which is άφησε/αφήστε, there is a shortened form: άσε/ας, plural: άστε 'let, leave'. The introductive ας is a weakened form of this word.
2) Κοίταξε να δεις or even άκουσε να δεις means: 'look (I am going to explain something to you)'
3) Ορίστε (used both for sg. and pl.) means: 'here you are! I beg your pardon? Can I help you? This way! Have some! Originally, it is the perfective imperative pl. of ορίζω = order, demand.
4) Χαίρετε (pl.) from χαίρω 'am glad' is used as a polite greeting on arrival and departure. The (ancient) sg. χαίρε belongs to poetical language:

        χαίρε ω χαίρε ελευθεριά (Σολωμός) 'Hail, hail, oh freedom!'
5) For the verb πηγαίνω see above p. 35 and 52.
6) The hortatory introductive για often precedes the imperative: για φαντάσου! = 'fancy that!'
7) The adverb εμπρός = 'forward', is used in two imperative senses:
a) 'Come in' b) 'Hello' (telephone).

b) as verbal substantives.

Two imperatives in the singular, mostly in the perfective, but also in the imperfective ending in -α, are coupled (with or without a hyphen) to form a neuter substantive. The pair consists either of the same verb repeated or of two verbs of related or contrary meaning. The whole expression has an intensive sense:

Με το λέγε-λέγε
or: με το πες πες.
        'By constantly talking'.

Δεν είχαμε πάρε-δώσε με τους Γερμανούς.
        'We had nothing to do with the Germans' (lit. 'take-give').

Δεν είναι παίξε-γέλασε.
        'It is not all beer and skittles' (lit. 'play-laugh').

Πάψε τα σύρτα-φέρτα.
        'Stop that coming and going' (lit. 'drag it - bring it').

Από το αδιάκοπο χτύπα-χτύπα χάλασε η πόρτα.
        'With the incessant knocking the door broke'.

Το άσκοπο πηγαινέλα.
        'The pointless coming and going'.

The origin of this type may be found in the Turkish verbal nouns (alιšveriš). The imperative thus functions as a kind of infinitive, and it is certainly, in this use, felt to be an infinite form.

The imperatives of the verbs μπαίνω and βγαίνω seem to be the only ones that can be used as single substantives (only in informal language):

Στο έμπα του λιμανιού.
    'At the entrance of the harbour'.

Στο έβγα του 20ού αιώνα.
    'At the end of the 20th century'.

c) adverbially. The same construction is also used adverbially:

Πες πες, στο τέλος συμφωνήσανε.
    'They talked and talked and finally they agreed'.

'Αψε-σβήσε παντρευτήκανε.
    'And in no time they married' (lit. 'switch on switch off').

Τράβα η μία τράβα η άλλη, της εκόψαν το κεφάλι.
    '(The two girls) cut off her head by dragging (the saw) to and fro'.

The only single imperative used adverbially is the stock phrase: δώσ' του (δώστου), meaning: 'and then continuously', 'and there you would see', usually followed by a noun or an imperfective non-past or past:

Δώστου παραγγελίες, δεν προλαβαίνει να χτίζει.
    'Orders keep coming in, but he (a carpenter) never manages to get anything built'.

'Εριχνε πίσω το κεφάλι, άνοιγε το στόμα τόσο, και δώστου ροχαλητό.
    'He used to throw his head back, he then opened his mouth and began to snore'.

Και δώστου έπεφταν απάνω του βροχή οι πέτρες.
    'And then the stones began to rain down on him'.

Και δώστου τα τηλέφωνα να βουΐζουν.
    'And the telephones did not stop ringing'.

6. θα, να, ας – General remarks

The three introductives θα, να and ας constitute a conspicuous feature of the syntax of the Modern Greek verb. They combine with all non-past and past forms, but never with imperatives or infinite forms. They are modal particles the function of which may be roughly compared to the English modal verbs *shall, will* and *must.*

Θα-expressions are used with a sense of futurity or inference: θα βρέχει = 'it will be raining / it must be raining'.

Να-expressions roughly correspond to the infinitive and subjunctive (or modal phrases) of Western European languages: να βρέχει = (that) it shall rain, to rain.

Aς-expressions (less frequent than expressions with θα and να) usually have a concessive meaning: ας βρέχει = 'let it only rain'.

The word order of the modal particles, the negatives, and the unstressed personal pronouns is fixed. It may be represented by the following formula:

*να/ας μη δεν θα σου το έχω δώσει.

The negatives follow να and ας, but precede θα. The pronouns come after the particles: first the pronoun in the genitive case, then, immediately before the finite verb form, the pronoun in the accusative case.

Setting aside the personal pronouns, the verb may be preceded by:

a) none of these elements: δίνουν. This, however, is not possible for Perf.NP, which must necessarily be preceded by να, ας, μη or θα or another of the introductives listed on page 31. For the only exception (φύγεις δε φύγεις) see p. 34.

b) one element: να or ας or μη or δεν or θα (δεν + Perf.NP is never a complete utterance).

c) two elements: να μη or ας μη or μη δεν or δεν θα.

For μη δεν "lest not" see p. 131.

Μη θα is very unusual:
Φοβόταν μη θα γινόταν μια επιθεώρηση.
       'He was afraid that an inspection might take place' (here μη is equivalent to μήπως).

d) three elements: only two combinations seem possible, both of them extremely rare:

να μη δεν with a dubitative meaning:

να μη δεν άκουσες καλά;
       'Maybe you did not hear it well?'

μη δεν θα – cf. c) above.

e) all four elements together: *να μη δεν θα do not seem possible.

7. θα

The introductive θα is found in all kinds of clauses, except those introduced by να, ας, πριν and προτού.
Its functions may be divided into two main groups:

1) future: θα + non-past (perf. or imperf.): simple future.
                    θα + imperfective past: past future, conditional.

2) inference: θα + any form, non-past or past.

7.1. Future expressions

In Modern Greek the future is expressed by:

1) θα + non-past (see below);

2) sometimes by the present tense, when the notion of futurity is shown by the context, e.g. by an adverb like αύριο 'tomorrow', especially to indicate the immediate future, what will undoubtedly happen, or what the subject is (un)willing to do:

Σε μισή ώρα φτάνουμε στην Αθήνα.
        'In half an hour we shall be in Athens'.

Αν χωρίσουμε, πάει, δεν τον ξαναβλέπω πια.
        'If we part, then it is finished, I won't see him again'.

Εγώ δεν κάθομαι εδώ.
        'I won't stay here'.

Cf. also expressions like:

Πάω να τρελαθώ.
        'I'm going to be driven mad'.

3) the perfective past may refer to an inevitable, often disastrous, consequence, especially following a conditional clause (see p. 42).

Conditional clauses referring to the future:

a) αν (εάν, άμα etc.) + non-past: αν αρρωστήσω   'If I fall ill'.
b) αν (εάν, άμα etc.) + θα + non-past: αν θα αρρωστήσω 'If I fall ill'.
c) αν (εάν, άμα etc.) + imperfective past: αν αρρώσταινα 'If I should fall ill' ...

a) is the normal (neutral) expression.

b) is semantically scarcely to be distinguished from a). It underlines the notion of futurity, whereas αν-clauses without θα may be general suppositions (whenever ...) or, with the Impf.NP, may refer to the present situation.

c) is the potential / unreal protasis, usually followed by θα + Impf.Past in the apodosis, and only the context shows whether the hypothesis concerns future, present, or past time. Θα is occasionally also used in both clauses:

Κι αν ακόμα θ'αυτοκτονούσε ο Χάρης, ποτέ δε θα κρεμιόταν γυμνός από μια σκάλα.
'Even if Haris would commit suicide, he would never be hanging naked from a staircase'.

Indefinite relative and temporal clauses (όποιος, όποτε, όταν) are likewise followed by non-past forms, with or without θα, according to the above indications. See also p. 31 and 115.

Examples:

Θα το δεις και συ άμα παντρευτείς.
'You will come to realize that too when you marry'.

Αν δεν μάθω το μπουζούκι, θα κόψω τα χέρια μου.
'If I do not learn how to play the buzuki, I'll cut off my hands'.

Αν θα πας εσύ, θα έρθω εγώ μαζί σου.
'If you go, I will come with you'.

Αν έπαιρνα άλλη γυναίκα, θα έπαιρνα και προίκα.
'If I married another woman, I would also get a dowry' (but the sense could also be: if I had married ...). See also below, p. 63.

7.2. Inference

Θα can indicate that what is referred to must be taken with a certain reservation. It covers a wide range, from mere guessing to logical conclusion. The inferential sense is often specified more precisely by adverbials such as ασφαλώς 'certainly, of course', ίσως 'perhaps', πιθανόν 'probably'.

Αν δεν είναι σπίτι του, θα είναι στης χήρας.
'If he is not at home, he'll probably be at the widow's'.

Νόμισε στην αρχή πως θα έγινε κάποιο δυστύχημα.
'At first he thought that there must have been an accident'.

Θα 'καμε τη βόλτα του, θα 'χει γυρίσει.
'I think he has taken his stroll, he must be back'.

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'Ίσως θα είχε κρυφτεί, σκέφτηκε.
'Perhaps she had hidden herself, he thought'.

For θα + Perf.NP see below.

In the following pages we shall examine the uses of each non-past and past form when preceded by θα.

7.3. θα + imperfective non-past

θα + Impf.NP is used:

a) to express *inference*: (present tense)

'Άπλωσε το χέρι του στο μέτωπό μου: θα 'χεις πυρετό, μου κάνει.
'He put his hand on my forehead: I think you have a temperature, he said'.

b) to express *futurity*: it describes situations or refers to repeated actions situated in the future. In the context some kind of temporal determinant is usually found, e.g. (this will be going on) from the moment that ... or: while, during ... or: until ...

Because of their meaning, many verbs of action rarely form this future: θα σβήσω το φως (perfective) 'I'll switch off the light' is a very current utterance, while θα σβήνω το φως (impf.) 'I'll regularly switch off the light' or 'I'll be switching off the light' is of course less frequently said.

'Όταν πλουτίσω, θα τρώω μαύρο χαβιάρι και κοκορέτσι.
'When I get rich, I'll eat black caviar and kokoretsi (grilled sheep's entrails).'

Από σήμερα και πέρα θα με βλέπεις συνέχεια.
'Starting from today you will see me every day'.

Κι αν φύγω από τα μάτια σου, θα μ' ακούνε τ' αφτιά σου· κι αν σβήσω για τ' αφτιά σου, θα μ' ακούει η ψυχή σου. (Βάρναλης)
'If I disappear from your eyes, your ears will hear me. And if I fade away from your ears, your soul will hear me'.

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7.4. θα + perfective non-past

θα + perfective non-past always refers to the future. It is the normal unmarked future tense, used whenever neither repetition nor development (description) nor completion is to be stressed:

Αν υπάρχει Θεός, ο οποίος αποδίδει δικαιοσύνη, (αυτός ο δικηγόρος) δεν θα πεθάνει. Θα ζήσει να βασανιστεί.

'If there is a God who renders justice, (this lawyer) will not die. He will continue to live so that he may be tormented'.

Τι ψωμί τρώγαμε, τι ψωμί θα φάμε;

'What kind of bread did we eat (till now), what kind of bread shall we eat in the future?' (newspaper headline).

Γλυτώσαμε ... θα ρίξουμε πάλι ρίζες στο χώμα, δε θα χαθεί το γένος, δε θα χαθούμε. Χιλιάδες χρόνια ζούμε, χιλιάδες θα ζήσουμε. (Καζαντζάκης)

'We are saved ... we shall again take root in the soil, our nation will not perish, we shall not perish. We have lived for thousands of years, and we shall live for thousands more'.

Σε κάθε κουτί οδοντόκρεμα θα βρείτε μια αυτοκόλλητη εικόνα.

'In each packet of toothpaste you will find an adhesive picture' (in spite of the repetition explicitly referred to, the perfective is used in order to focus on one opening of the packet at a time: "after opening you will find...").

Κάθε φορά που θα συναντήσει τη Ρένα, βγάζει το καπέλο του με πολλή προσοχή.

'Every time he is going to meet Rena, he takes off his hat with much charm' (the perfective shows that there is no coincidence: he takes it off before ....).

It is hardly possible to distinguish a special inferential use referring to future time, as most utterances concerning the future are expressed with some degree of uncertainty. Thus, θα έρθουν στις τρεις may mean: they will come at 3 o'clock – or with slightly modified intonation: they will probably come at 3 o'clock.

Note: θα πει = 'it means':

Τι θα πουν όλα αυτά;

'What does all that mean?'
(cf. French: Qu'est-ce que cela veut dire ?).

Examples in which both perfective and imperfective non-past occur:

Αφού μπόρεσα να σου μιλήσω, τώρα θα σε ζωγραφίσω, θα σε ζωγραφίζω αιώνια.

'Because I could talk to you, now I'll paint you, I'll be painting you for ever'.

Δεν θα τον παντρευτώ εγώ. Δεν θα κοιμάμαι εγώ μαζί του.
    'I'm not going to marry him, I'm not going to sleep with him'.

Θα πάρω το τουφέκι και θα σκοτώνω ανθρώπους. Θα γίνω θεριό, δε θα φοβούμαι κανέναν.
    'I'll take my gun and go out and kill people, I'll become a monster, I won't be afraid of anybody'. The killing goes on (impf.) from the moment he takes the gun (perf.); the feeling of not-fear (impf.) from the moment he becomes a monster (perf.).

Μια μέρα θα γυρίσει στο Ντιαρμπεκίρ. Θα τον ρωτούν: Ε, τι έμαθες; [...] αυτός τότε θα κάθεται και θα τους λέει [...] θα παίρνει ένα χαρτί και θα αρχίζει να ζουγραφίζει.
    'One day he'll return to Diyarbekir. They will ask him: 'What did you learn?' [...] He'll sit down and tell [...] He'll take a piece of paper and start drawing'. The series of imperfectives describes a situation expected to occur again and again, once he has returned' (perf.).

Όλοι μαζί θα δημιουργήσουμε μια ποιητική κωμωδία και θα την παίζουμε την ίδια στιγμή που θα τη δημιουργούμε.
    'Together we'll create a poetic comedy, and we'll play it bit by bit, the moment we create it'. The perfective states the fact, the two follwing imperfectives describe the performance in progress'.

Εσείς τι θα παίξετε (στην κωμωδία); ρώτησε. – Εγώ θ' ακούω, είπα.
    'Which part are you going to play (in the comedy)? he asked.
    – I'll be listening, I said'.

7.5. θα + imperfective past

θα + imperfective past has a very wide range of uses; we shal here distinguish between two main groups: one, in which the aspect value seems absent, corresponding to the French conditionnel (je viendrais), and one, in which the aspect value is retained:

1. aspect value absent: 1.1. conditional
                               1.2. past future
2. aspect value retained: 2.1. iterative
                               2.2. inferential

1.1. Θα τη φιλούσε αν δεν ήταν τόσο κοντός.
        'He would kiss (have kissed) her, if he were not so short'.
1.2. Είπε πως θα τη φιλούσε όταν θα γύριζε από το ταξίδι.
        'He said that he would kiss her when he came back from the journey'.
2.1. Όποιαν κι αν συναντούσε, θα τη φιλούσε.
        'He would (= used to) kiss every girl he met'.
2.2. Εκείνη τη στιγμή, φαντάζομαι, θα τη φιλούσε.
        'At that moment, I imagine, he was kissing her'.

Except for the inferential meaning, θα + Impf.Past can usually be translated by 'would' + infinitive in English.

7.5.1. θα + Impf.Past: aspect value absent

The opposition of aspect is neutralized in the conditional and in the past future:

Θα τον βλέπω κάθε μέρα   Χαιρόμουν που θα τον έβλεπα κάθε μέρα.
'I'll see him every day'   'I looked forward to seeing him every day'.

Θα τον δω το Πάσχα   Χαιρόμουν που θα τον έβλεπα το Πάσχα.
'I'll see him at Easter'   'I looked forward to seeing him at Easter'.

But the non-past tense can also be kept (see p. 125 ff.).

1. Conditional

θα + Imp.Past may be used as a conditional or potential expression, i.e. to indicate that whatever the verb means might be, or might have been, realized under conditions described by or readily understood from the context.

Αν είχα λεφτά, θα πήγαινα στο κομμωτήριο.

1) = If I had money, I would go to the hairdresser's (but I have not, so I don't).
2) = If I had had money, I would have gone to the hairdresser's' (but I had not, so I didn't).

Δεν μ' αγαπάς. Αν μ' αγαπούσες δεν θα με φιλούσες τόσο κρύα.
    'You do not love me. If you did, you would not kiss me so coldly'.

Αν είχες ίχνος μυαλού δεν θα τα έβλεπες έτσι τα πράγματα.
    'If you were just a little bit intelligent, you would not see things like that'.

The pluperfect refers to the past, in protasis or apodosis or both, e.g.:

Αν είχα διαβατήριο θα το 'χα σκάσει προ πολλού.
    'If I had a passport, I would have taken to my heels long ago' (and be gone now: the pluperfect stresses the result).

But also the Impf.Past can refer to the past:

Αν η Ολλανδέζα δεν αποφάσιζε να φύγει, δεν χωρεί ίχνος αμφιβολίας ότι στο τέλος θα παντρεύοντουσαν.
    'If the Dutch girl had not decided to leave him, there is not the slightest doubt that they would have married in the end'.

The condition may be expressed by prepositional phrases:

Θα πλούτιζες στο Παρίσι.
    'You would become rich if you went to Paris' (in the future).

Or a vague condition may be implied:

Θα έλεγα ότι ...
    'I would say that ..' (if you asked me, or the like).

Especially common are the 'conditionals of politeness':
Θα ήθελα = I would like to ...
θα έπρεπε = (we) had better ...

θα is occasionally also found in the protasis:

Αν θα 'μενε μόνη της ..., θα καταντούσε ζητιάνα στους δρόμους.
    'If she were left alone, she would end up as a beggar in the streets'.

More examples:

Αν ερχόσαστε δέκα λεπτά νωρίτερα, θα προλαβαίνατε τα παιδιά.
    'If you had arrived ten minutes earlier, you would have been in time
    to meet the children'.

Θα σκότωνα οποιονδήποτε μ' εμπόδιζε.
    'I would have killed whoever got in my way'.

2. Past future

After a past form of verbs of saying, meaning, and the like, θα + im-
perfective past may express past future, i.e. represent θα + non-past (impf.
or perf.) transferred to the past.

Δεν ήξερε αν έφυγε ο άντρας της για πάντα ή θα ξαναγύριζε.
    'She did not know if her husband had left for ever or would come
    back again'. In direct speech: Θα ξαναγυρίσει; (perf.)

Τον ρώτησε η Ρένα τι θα της έδινε;
    'Rena asked him what he would pay her (in wages every month)'.
    In direct speech: Τι θα μου δίνετε;

(Καθόταν στο καφενείο). Σε λίγο θα 'φευγε και στις εφτά θα τη
συναντούσε στο ταχυδρομείο.
    '(He was sitting in the cafe). Shortly after he would leave, and at
    seven o'clock he would meet her at the post office'. Here the
    'covert direct speech' makes the use of past future necessary.

Το σκάνδαλο, όταν θα ξεσκεπαζόταν, θα 'κανε πάταγο.
    'When the scandal would be discovered, it would cause an uproar'.

7.5.2. θα + Impf.Past: aspect value retained

1. Iterative

θα + imperfective past may refer to habitual actions in the past, θα stressing the potential sense: 'it might be expected that.'. It is often found in connection with an indefinite relative clause (e.g. όποιος 'whoever'). Contrary to the conditional and the past future sense, the 'iterative' θα may be omitted without any serious change of meaning. It is an interesting coincidence that in English *would* + infinitive is used in the same three senses.

Το πουκάμισό του ποτέ δεν έκλεινε σωστά, όλο και θα του έλειπε κανένα κουμπί.
> 'His shirt was never properly done up, always some button would be missing'.

Όποιον να ρωτούσες, θα σου έλεγε πως ημερότερος άνθρωπος δε στάθηκε ποτέ στην Κρήτη.
> 'No matter whom you asked, he would tell you that there had never been a more peaceable man in Crete'.

(Εγώ όταν ήμουν νέα) σ' όποιον να 'λεγα "σε παίρνω", θα 'τρεχε με τα τέσσερα.
> '(When I was young) any man to whom I would say, "I want to marry you", came running on all fours (or – if considered conditional – 'would have come').

2. Inferential

Η ώρα θα 'ταν πέντε.
> 'It must have been five o'clock' (presumably, most likely).

Πρόβαλε ο αγάς ολομέθυστος ... βούιζαν τ' αφτιά του, κάπου θα φώναζαν ή θα έκλαιγαν ή θα τραγουδούσαν – δεν μπορούσε να καταλάβει.
> 'The aga appeared, dead drunk... his ears were buzzing, somewhere, apparently, people were shouting or crying or singing – he couldn't work it out'.

7.6. θα + perfective past

Θα + perfective past is only used in the inferential sense. In the Turkish period, it was also used in a potential or conditional sense, but this feature has completely vanished from Modern Greek.

Νόμισε στην αρχή πως θα έγινε κάποιο δυστύχημα.
> 'In the beginning he thought that some accident must have happened'.

Εγώ μάλλον θα γεννήθηκα για να παίζω στους δρόμους μουσική.
> 'I was probably born in order to play music in the streets'.

In a poem by Kavafis we find θα + perfective referring to the future, equivalent to θα + perfect:

῞Οταν ἡμεῖς ὑπέργηροι, θά κείμεθα ἐλεεινά
καί μερικοί θά μπήκανε στόν ῞Αδη
(θἄλθουν οἱ ἐχθροί μας ....)
> 'When we, as hoary old men come to lie miserably and some of us already have entered Hades' (then our enemies will come...).

7.7. θα + perfect

Since the perfect tense is composed of an imperfective form of ἔχω + perfective infinite of the main verb, it has the same two functions as any other imperfective form preceded by θα, viz. those of future and inference.

a) future perfect

Σε δύο λεπτά θα έχω τελειώσει.
> 'I'll have finished in two minutes'.

Το έργο θα έχει ολοκληρωθεί ως το τέλος του Νοεμβρίου.
> 'The work will be completed at the end of November'.

Εδώ είναι όλο το πρόβλημα, ... όταν το λύσω, θα 'χω θριαμβεύσει.
> 'Here lies the whole problem ... when I have solved it, that will be a triumph for me'.

Note: In temporal and conditional subordinate clauses the future perfect is only rarely used, as the perfective non-past by itself expresses completed action. Thus 'as soon as I have eaten, I'll go to bed' will normally be translated by: μόλις φάω, θα κοιμηθώ, rather than by: μόλις θα έχω φάει, θα κοιμηθώ, the latter referring explicitly to the 'situation of having finished my meal'. Μόλις έχω φάει without θα cannot refer to future time.

b) Inferential

Το χωριό σας καταστράφηκε – ο Θεός ξέρει τι αμαρτίες θα έχετε κάνει.
>'Your village has been destroyed – God knows what sins you must have committed' (the θα shows that the speaker supposes, without actually knowing, that the others have sinned)

Η Κατερίνα θα 'χει μπει κιόλα στον Παράδεισο, συλλογίζονταν, και θα κάθεται με τη Μαρία και τη Μαγδαληνή να τα λένε.
>'Catherine, he thought, must already bave entered Paradise and will now be sitting with Mary and Magdalene chattering'.

7.8. θα + pluperfect

The pluperfect follows the general rules valid for the imperfective past, except that it is not used in an iterative sense. Preceded by θα the pluperfect expresses:

a) Unreal conditional expressions

Θα + pluperfect emphasizes the situation or result that would have come out of the (past) action referred to:

Αν είχα φύγει, θα είχα καταστραφεί.
>'If I had fled, I would have perished'.

The condition may be expressed by prepositional phrases:

Χωρίς εσένα θα είχα χαθεί μέσα στο δάσος.
>'Without you I would have been lost in the woods'.

Με άλλο χαρακτήρα θα είχες κάνει σπουδαία καριέρα.
>'If you had had another character, you would have made a great career'.

Λογάριαζα τι θα 'κανα την ίδια ώρα στην Αθήνα: Τώρα θα είχα ξυπνήσει και θα 'πινα καφέ στη δροσιά του μπαλκονιού κοιτώντας την Ακρόπολη.
>'I thought about what I would be doing at the same time in Athens: By now I would have woken up and would be sitting on the cool balcony drinking coffee and looking at the Acropolis'.

b) Past future perfect

A future perfect viewed from a point in the past:

Είχε κανονίσει ο Τάκης να φτάσει το γράμμα στα χέρια μας όταν αυτός θα είχε ήδη αφήσει την Αθήνα.
> 'Takis had arranged it so that the letter would only come into our hands when he had already left Athens'.

Σκέφτηκε πως θα 'μενε μόνη αφού θα 'χανε πια πεθάνει οι γονείς της.
> 'She reflected that she would be left alone because her parents would be dead by that time'.

c) Inferential

Ούτε καμιά φωτογραφία απ' τα νιάτα της δεν είχαμε – υποθέτω δεν θα 'χε ανακαλυφθεί ακόμα η φωτογραφία.
> 'We did not have even a single photo from her youth – I suppose, photography had not been invented/discovered yet'.

7.9. Historical note

The Ancient Greek future tense (γράψω) tended already in the late Roman Empire to be replaced by various periphrastic expressions, which allowed the future tense to fit into the general verbal system on the basis of two aspects. We thus find e.g. έχω + imperfective or aorist infinitive 'I have to..'. = 'I shall'.

During the Middle Ages, however, the different future expressions gradually became replaced by θέλω + infinitive, and later, when the infinitive had gone out of use, by θέλει (ί)να + subjunctive (non-past forms). Since person and number are then adequately indicated by the non-past form, we find the invariable θέλει να that later becomes θενα > θανα > θαν > θα.

Once θέλει has become invariable, future expressions with only one form inflected can usually be distinguished from expressions of will, where both verbs are inflected:

θέλει γράψω or θέλω γράψει 'I shall write'.
θέλω να γράψω 'I want to write'.

The maintenance of older forms in written language and attempts to create new expressions with the aid of Ancient Greek forms make it extremely difficult to follow the development in detail. Up to the end of the 19th century, different constructions may be found side by side in the same author, the only relatively constant feature[25] being that there is only one verbal form inflected for person and number (infl. = inflected, unv. = unvariable):

	type 1 *infl. + unv.*	*type 2* *unv. + infl.*	*Modern Greek* *unv. + infl.*
Future			
imperfective	θέλω γράφει	θέλει γράφω	θα γράφω
perfective	θέλω γράψει	θέλει γράψω	θα γράψω
Conditional			
imperfective	ήθελα γράφει	ήθελε γράφει	θα έγραφα
perfective	ήθελα γράψει	ήθελε γράψει	–

Notice that, contrary to the modern system, the other combinations allow for a perfective conditional expression.

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[25] There seems to be a great variation between the various ways of expressing the future. E.g. in the large epos "Erotokritos" from about 1600:

Σήμερο θέλουμε τὸ δεῖ, σὰν καλοξημερώσῃ,
ἴντα μαντάτο καὶ φωνὴν ὁ ξένος θὰ μοῦ δώσῃ
κι ἂν εἶν' κι ἐχάθη ὁ Ρώκριτος, δῆς θὲς τὸ θὲ νὰ κάμω:
ἕνα μαχαίρι στὴν καρδιὰ βάνω γαμπρὸ στὸ γάμο.
    'Today, when daylight has come, we'll see
    What news and words the stranger will bring.
    And if Erotokritos is dead, you'll see what I will do:
    A knife in my heart will be my bridegroom at the wedding'
    (E 833-835, εκδ. Στ. Αλεξίου).

Contrary to the above rule, in δῆς θες both forms are inflected.
An example of the conditional:

Καὶ τὸ παιδί μου ἀνὲν κιανεὶς μοῦ τό'θελε σκοτώσει,
ἕτοιο καιρὸν ἀντίμεψη δὲν ήθελα τοῦ δώσει.
    'And even if somebody killed my own child,
    I would not at a time like this have paid him back'.
    (B 929-930, εκδ. Στ. Αλεξίου).

8. να

The να-expressions can be characterized as 'non-indicatives'. They must often be translated by infinitives in English, but they are finite forms. Some typical examples:

1) θέλω να φύγω	'I want to leave'
2) θέλω να φύγεις	'I want you to leave'
3) να φύγουμε!	'Let us go'
4) να φύγουμε;	'Shall we go?'
5) Ίσως να έφυγαν	'Maybe they've gone'.

When να links together two verbs (examples 1 and 2), it is clearly a subordinating introductive; in other cases it functions as a modal particle (3-4). Finally, after certain words and phrases it is used in a quasi-connective sense (5). For a more unified attempt at interpretation see the end of this chapter p. 121.

Να combines with all finite forms with the exception of the imperative. However, να + Perf.Past has a restricted use, so that generally speaking, it may be said that να combines with non-past forms, in unreal and potential contexts also with Impf.Past, and in a small number of cases also with Perf.Past.

To provide some idea of the frequency of each combination, their occurrences in about 85 pages taken at random from six authors from the 1960'ies were counted until the number of 30 Impf.NP were reached in each text:

1) Απόστολος Βακαλόπουλος: Ιστορία του Νέου Ελληνισμού.
2) Μάρκος Βαμβακάρης: Αυτοβιογραφία.
3) Νίκος Βρεττάκος: Νίκος Καζαντζάκης.
4) Νίκος Καζαντζάκης: Θέατρο.
5) Αντώνης Σαμαράκης: Η Ζούγκλα.
6) Κώστας Ταχτσής: Το τρίτο στεφάνι.

To this older material examples have been added from a database containing texts with a total number of about 2,400,000 words, taken above all from newspapers and literary texts from the 1990s. Three combinations have been counted:

7) να followed by a personal pronoun in the third person singular (τον, την, το, τους etc.)
8) να μη(ν)
9) να immediately preceded by a verb in the first person singular (excluding να μη ... and να τον/την).

In 8) all occurrences are included; in 9) counting was continued until the total number of 1000 examples of να was reached.

The following figures were found:

να +	Impf NP	Perf NP	Impf Past	Perf Past	Perfect	Plupf	Total
1)	30	26	1	1	0	0	58
2)	30	59	4	0	0	0	93
3)	30	81	7	4	2	0	124
4)	30	96	6	0	0	0	132
5)	30	91	5	0	1	1	128
6)	30	72	9	0	1	0	112
7) να τον	30	113	5	1	0	0	149
8) να μη	20	18	0	1	0	2	41
9) 1st sg. + να	47	110	1	4	0	1	173
Total	277	666	38	11	4	4	**1000**

It appears that in some texts Perf.NP is more than three times as frequent as Impf.NP and covers two thirds of the total number of cases. The imperfective aspect prevails only in the historical work (no. 1), where the text described the general conditions of the Cretan population, and in negated clauses (no. 8), but in both cases the perfective is almost as frequent.

The Impf.Past occurs in about 4% of the cases, Perf.Past in 1%, and perfect and pluperfect only in 0.5%.

The various uses of να may be analysed and described in several ways. The method used until now in the present study, namely to examine the forms, Perf.NP, Impf.NP etc., one by one, is not to be recommended, because most of the very different types of να-expressions (commands, questions, object clauses, purpose clauses, etc.) allow for both aspects, so that each type of clause would have to be dealt with two, or even three or four times. Therefore it seemed preferable to proceed in a different way, subdividing the chapter according to the constructional possibilities of the να-expressions and then, secondarily, to divide according to aspect and tense.

Initially we shall examine independent να-clauses in which να can be the first word. Under this heading we also place questions, although the interrogative word, when found, usually precedes the να (8.1).

Next we shall investigate να-clauses where να must be preceded by a 'governing element' (see below) other than a verb, e.g. μακάρι να 'would that'. No verb is understood or can be supplied (8.2).
In the third group we place the usual subordinate να-clauses governed by a verb or verbal phrase which may (but need not) immediately precede the να. This group is further subdivided into 4 sections (see p. 82).
In 8.4 we examine the subordinate να-clauses preceded by a governing element other than verb: the definite article, prepositions, introductives and pronouns.

The whole construction constitutes only part of a complete sentence containing another finite verb (which may, however, be understood).

Finally (8.5) we arrive at the remaining subordinate clauses – those which cannot be said to be governed by any element, but are equivalent to conditional or temporal clauses or other adverbial expressions.

We use the term 'governing element' for the word or phrase whose meaning is completed only in combination with the να-expression, and which may – in some cases must – immediately precede the να. In most cases, however, it is possible to insert some word or phrase between the 'governing element' and the να. We shall say that there is a 'free field':

	Governing element		*Free field*	*να-clause*
	verb:	*not verb:*		
1.	–	–	(ο Νίκος)	να το κάνει
2.	–	ίσως	(ο Νίκος)	να το κάνει
3.	φαίνεται		(ο Νίκος)	να συμφωνεί
4.	(χωρίσαμε) χωρίς		(καν)	να φιληθούμε
5.	(δεν κάνω τίποτε άλλο) από	–		το να κοιμάμαι

Translation:

1.   Let Nikos do it.
2.   Perhaps he (Nikos) will do it.
3.   He (Nikos) seems to agree.
4.   We parted without (even) kissing each other.
5.   I do nothing but sleep.

8.1. No governing element

Να is used in independent clauses to express:

1)   command
2)   wish or curse.
3)   description ('narrative').
4)   question: a) deliberative b) wondering.
5)   exclamation, surprise.

In these cases να + verb by themselves constitute a complete utterance.

8.1.1. Command, will, order, exhortation

Usually only non-past forms are found:

Να σε βλέπω συχνότερα.
          'Let me see you more often'.

Κύριε γυμνασιάρχη, να μη μας διώξετε ακόμη.
'Sir ("Mr headmaster"), don't throw us out yet'.

The Impf.Past is used:

a) to impart a milder, more polite tone to the order:
Να πήγαινες μια στιγμή να δεις ποιος ήρθε.
'Would you please go and see who has come'.

b) referring to the past, to express an unfulfilled obligation:
Αφού σ' άρεσε, να το 'παιρνες.
'Since you liked it, you should have bought it'.

But non-past forms can also be used in order to refer to the past, especially in the second person to express 'exclamatory' order:

Εκεί να δεις τι έγινε!
'You should have seen what happened there!'

Commands are also expressed by the imperative (only second person). Prohibitions are also expressed by μη (not preceded by να) in all persons. For expressions of command in general – and also for the use of ας and ας μη, see 'Imperative expressions' p. 48 ff.

8.1.2. Wishes and curses

Wishes and curses are expressed by να + verb, often preceded by a wishing introductive (see 8.2.1 below). Ας is less used in a pure optative meaning, and mostly with an Impf.Past in unreal wishes[26].
Non-past forms express wishes that are considered attainable; Impf.Past express wishes that are felt to be in opposition to reality (also expressed by the pluperfect) or at least not very probable. Perf.Past, when used, is nearly always preceded by a 'wish-word' (μακάρι να έφυγαν 'I hope they're gone').

Να σου ζήσουν τα παιδιά σου!
'May your children live (and be happy)'.

Να μην ξαναδούν τα μάτια μου τέτοια πράγματα!
'I wish that my eyes may never see anything like that again!'

Να σου δίνει ο Θεός υγεία!
'May God (continue to) give you good health!'

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[26] A good example with the pluperfect is found in Erotokritos·
Κι ἂς εἶχεν εἶσται μπορετὸ κ'ἡ Τύχη ἂς τό'χε φέρει
νά'θελε λάχειν ἐδεπὰ τὸ σπλαχνικό μου ταῖρι
νά'θελε μπεῖ στὸν πόλεμο καὶ νά'θελε νικήσει.
'Would that it had been possible and that destiny had made it so that my dear love had been here and had taken part in the war and had won the day'.
(Ερωτόκριτος Ε, 77-79).

Κακό χρόνο να 'χεις.
>'May you have a bad time' (a very strong curse).

Αχ! Να μπορούσα εγώ να γίνω η νύφη!
>'Oh! If only I could become the bride!'

Examples with ας:

Ας είχα ένα κλήμα στη στεριά!
>'Would that I had a vineyard on the mainland!'

Often in double wishes:

Ας ήξερα γράμματα και ας ήμουν μ' ένα μάτι.
>'If only I knew how to read – even if I had only one eye' (i.e. I
>would not mind being one-eyed, if only...).

Wishes may also be expressed by an elliptic αν-clause:

Αν μπορούσα να ήμουν καλή ηθοποιός!
>'If only I could be a good actress!'

8.1.3. Description ('narrative' να)

In describing past events να + non-past can be used instead of normal past
forms – most often in the imperfective aspect; it gives a more dramatic effect,
just like the French exclamatory infinitive:

'Αμα τα 'κουσε η Μαρία, να κλαίει, να φωνάζει, να τραβάει τα
μαλλιά της.
>'When Maria heard that, she began to cry, scream, and pull her
>hair' (French: = Et Marie, en entendant cela, de pleurer, de crier,
>de se tirer les cheveux).

Κ' η Μοσκούλα να γυρίζει όλη μέρα σα θεριό μεσ' στην αυλή και να
μη θέλει με κανέναν τρόπο να μ' ακροαστεί.
>'And Moskoula then wandered around all day in the yard like a wild
>animal and would absolutely not listen to me'.

8.1.4. Questions

Two types of questions must be distinguished: deliberative questions and
'wondering' questions.

a) Deliberative questions

The question is about the duty, necessity, or possibility of an action: 'must....,
shall....?' It can be interpreted as the interrogative form of an imperative
expression, and some form of πρέπει or θέλω or μπορώ can generally be

supplied before να. The perfective past is excluded from deliberative questions.

Examples:

Τι να κάνουμε;
        'What can we do?'

Να σου δώσω τις σταγόνες σου; (= θέλεις να ...)
        'Shall I give you your drops?'

Να την παντρέψω εγώ; ανημποριά έχει να βρει μόνη της γαμπρό; (= είναι ανάγκη να την παντρέψω εγώ)
        'Must I find a husband for her? Is she incapable of finding one herself?'

Πού να κοιμηθώ; δεν έχω πού να κοιμηθώ. (= Πού μπορώ να ...)
        'Where shall I sleep? I have nowhere to sleep'.

Πού να ξέρω;
        'How should I know?'

Δεν είχαμε πού να κρυφτούμε.
        We had nowhere to hide'.

Γιατί να 'χει ο Κουκής ραδιόφωνο κι εμείς να μην έχουμε;
        'Why should Koukis have a radio and not us?' (it is not reasonable that...)

Εσύ γιατί δε μίλησες; – Τι να έλεγα;
        'Why didn't you speak? – What should I have said?'

Το κοριτσάκι εξακολουθούσε να κλαίει. Να το πλησίαζα ή όχι;
        'The girl continued to cry. Should I go over to her or not?'

Special cases:

Πώς να ... = 'how is it possible that ...' = 'you cannot possibly...'
Πώς να μη ... = 'how is it possible that ... not ...' = 'you cannot help ...'.

Πώς να τον συμπαθήσω με τόσα ελαττώματα;
        'How can/could I feel sympathy for a man with so many shortcomings?'

Και πώς να μη μείνει γεροντοκόρη τέτοια που είναι;
        'And how could she not remain an old maid, being what she is?'

Πώς να μην απελπιζόταν ο πατέρας μου;
        'How could my father not be in despair (because of my behaviour)?'

b) 'Wondering' questions

The question is about a fact; the addition of να indicates that the speaker wonders or doubts as to what the answer can be (like the Danish 'mon'). If the question can be answered by 'yes' or 'no', the doubt is about the existence of the fact (can it really be that...?), or put forward with some reservation (could it be that...?)

In the perfective aspect the distinction between deliberative and wondering questions is clear:

Να + Perf.NP is deliberative: να την ρωτήσουνε; 'should they ask her?'
Να + Perf.Past is wondering: να την ρωτήσανε; 'Do you think they have asked her?'. See, however, 8.1.5 for Perf.NP referring to the past.

In the imperfective aspect only the context shows the exact meaning, just as 'must' in English either expresses necessity: 'you must help me', or strong probability: 'you must be hungry':

Πού να τρώει ο κακομοίρης;
      (deliberative:) 'Where is the poor man going to have his meals?'
      (wondering:) 'I wonder where the poor man is eating'.

Ηρεμία, όλα κλειστά, ακόμα και τα περίπτερα. Τι να 'γινε;
      'Peace and quiet, everything closed, even the kiosks. What can have happened?'

Να τον πείραξε κιόλας το πρώτο ούζο;
      'Can it really be that the very first glass of ouzo upset him?'

Σαν να 'λεγε κάτι τότε ... αλλά τι να έλεγε;
      'It was as if he were saying something then – but what can he possibly have been saying?'
Σε ποιον να έχει δώσει το κλειδί;
      'I wonder to whom he has given the key'.

Τι να δω; 'and what do you think I saw?' increases the listener's suspense:

Βγαίνω έξω και τι να δω; μια κότα μαύρη σαν το Χάρο.
      'I go out and what do I see? A hen as black as death'.

Λές να 'do you think that ...?':

Λες να βρέξει;
      'Do you think it's going to rain?'

Λέτε να γύρισαν στο ξενοδοχείο;
      'Do you think they have come back to the hotel?'

(But λέω να .... I suggest/intend to': see p. 124)

8.1.5. Exclamation, indignation, protest

Να + any form, non-past or past, may express surprise: 'Fancy that', often an unpleasant surprise provoking a protest. Something like πώς είναι δυνατόν ... 'how is it possible' might be supplied.

Να κυλάει η ζωή σου δίπλα στα χέλια και να 'ρχεται μια στιγμή να βλέπεις πως δεν ξέρεις τίποτα γι' αυτόν το γείτονά σου.
> 'Fancy that your life rolls along next to the eels, and then comes a moment where you understand that you do not know anything about this neighbour of yours!'

Και να σκεφτεί κανείς ότι το σπίτι της Φρόσως ήταν μόνο τρία στενά πιο πάνω από το δικό μας.
> 'And to think that Froso's house was only three streets up from ours!'

Τόσες μέρες και να μην το σκέφτηκα.
> 'So many days have gone by, and I have not even thought of it!'

Αυτή να έχει πάρει βασιλιά κι εγώ να πεινάω!
> 'She has married a king, and I am starving!'

Summary:

Taking no account of intonation, να περιμένει can mean:

a)	1	he must wait	= πρέπει να περιμένει
	2	I wish he'll wait	= μακάρι να περιμένει
	3	(and) he was waiting	
		(e.g.: και αυτός να περιμένει, και εμείς να ...)	
	4	must he wait?	= πρέπει να περιμένει;
	5	can it be that he is waiting?	= λες να περιμένει;
	6	he is waiting (fantastic!).	
b)		... that he is waiting (see below).	

8.2. Governing element other than verb

We shall now consider the rather few cases in which να is governed and preceded by an adverbial expression. The construction is not elliptical, no verb can be inserted between the adverbial expression and να, nor can any verb precede it. E.g. the wish formula μακάρι να 'would that' governs by itself a clause: μακάρι να έρθουν, but it is not possible to supply a verb: *είναι μακάρι να έρθουν.

We shall first deal with expressions of wish (μακάρι να) and then, in alphabetical order, with the most important other words and phrases that combine with a να-clause to constitute a complete statement, viz.:

ακόμη να
ίσως να
καλά να
παρά λίγο να.

8.2.1. Wishes

The simple να may be preceded by μακάρι 'would that' to express a wish. In solemn, official speech the ancient είθε can be found, while άμποτε (same sense), which is found in older literature, is almost obsolete today.

Μακάρι να can also be followed by a perfective past, meaning 'I hope that actually ..... happened'.

Μακάρι αυτό να σημαίνει στροφή στην οικονομική πολιτική της Νέας Δημοκρατίας.
'Would that this means a change in the economic policy of the conservative party'.

Μακάρι οι Γερμανοί να 'ρθουνε.
'Would that the Germans will come'.

Μακάρι να 'σουνα μητέρα μου.
'I wish you were my mother'.

Μακάρι να ήξερα κι εγώ γράμματα.
'I wish I too had learnt how to read'.

Μακάρι να της το έδωσε το κλειδί.
'I really hope he has given her the key'.

Μακάρι να μην έχει φύγει ακόμα.
'I hope he has not left yet'.

8.2.2. Other expressions

a) ακόμα να

Ακόμα να (ακόμη να) means 'still something is/was left before...' = 'not yet':

Ακόμα να σηκωθείς;
'Have you not got up yet?'

Ακόμα να φανεί το βαπόρι.
'The steamer has/had not appeared yet'.

Ακόμα να της βάλουν τηλέφωνο.
'They still haven't installed her telephone'.

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b) Ἴσως

The adverb ἴσως ('perhaps') combines with any non-past or past form, the Perf.NP always referring to the future. Να or θα may be inserted: να adds a note of hesitation and changes the function of ἴσως from a loose adverb that may also follow the verb to an introductive, governing and preceding a subordinate clause. ἴσως να is almost synonymous with μπορεί να 'maybe that'. Θα keeps its normal value (see p. 58).

'Maybe he's gone' can thus be rendered:

> ἴσως ἔφυγε
> or: ἴσως να ἔφυγε   (with a note of hesitation)
> or: ἴσως θα ἔφυγε   (with a note of speculation, "inferential" θα).

'Perhaps he'll come':
> ἴσως ἔρθει
> or: ἴσως να ἔρθει   (with a note of hesitation)
> or: ἴσως θα ἔρθει   (clearly situated in the future).

Ἴσως αυτό να είναι το καλύτερο.
> 'Maybe it is best like that'.

Ἴσως να μην το ανακαλύψει ποτέ.
> 'Maybe he will never discover it'.

Ἴσως να 'ταν γραφτό απ' το Θεό να τον πάρω.
> 'Maybe it was God's will that I should marry him'.

Ἴσως να μην τους είδαμε ποτέ.
> 'It is possible that we have never seen them'.

Ἴσως να μην έχουν παρθεί και οι αποφάσεις.
> 'Perhaps the decisions have not been made yet'.

Ἴσως τα πράγματα να είχαν προχωρήσει πολύ περισσότερο απ' όσα ονειρευόταν.
> 'Perhaps things had advanced much further than he had ever dreamt of'.

In all of the above examples να might have been omitted without any serious change of meaning (να μην becoming δεν) – just as it could be inserted in the clause below:

Μια μέρα ίσως γίνω γυμνασιάρχης.
> 'One day perhaps I'll become a headmaster'.

c) καλά να πάθεις

The stock phrase καλά να πάθεις (να πάθω/πάθουν ... means: 'That is what you (I/they etc.) deserved'.

d) παρά λίγο να

Παρά λίγο να means 'nearly, almost'. In most cases this phrase combines with Perf.NP, sometimes, however, to stress the sense of unreality, it is followed by Impf.Past:

Όταν ήτανε μικρός παρά λίγο να τον πνίξει η πλημμύρα.
    'When he was a boy, the flood nearly drowned him'.

Παρά λίγο να τον δείρουν.
    'They were on the point of thrashing him'.

Παρά λίγο να έπεφτες στον γκρεμό.
    'You were on the point of falling into the abyss'.

So also παρά τρίχα να = 'by a hair's breath'.

8.3. να-clauses governed by a verb

We now arrive at what is undoubtedly the largest group, including most of the cases that correspond to English infinitive constructions. The minimum phrase consists of verb + να + verb:
θέλω να κοιμηθώ   'I want to sleep'.

The να-clause covers a large number of syntactical functions, comprising:

a) subject:
Χρειάζεται να διαβάζω 'I need to read' (cf. χρειάζεται διάβασμα).

b) object:
Θέλω να με βοηθήσεις 'I want you to help me' (cf. θέλω τη βοήθειά σου).

c) predicate:
Η δουλειά του είναι να επιτηρεί 'his job is to supervise'.

d) verbal with the object of the main clause as subject:
Βλέπω το πλοίο να έρχεται 'I see the boat coming'.

e) subordinate to a noun (explicative, atrributive etc.):
έκανα το λάθος να φύγω 'I made the mistake of leaving'.
Δεν ήταν άνθρωπος να πειράζει 'he was not a man to vex other people'.

The subject of the verb in the να-clause can be:

a) Identical with the subject of the main clause (ταυτοπροσωπία 'identity of person'). Some verbs always have ταυτοπροσωπία, e.g. αρχίζω 'begin', μπορώ 'can' (except for the impersonal μπορεί = it is possible), but most verbs can have it.

> Αρχίζω να καταλαβαίνω.
>> 'I begin to understand'.

b) Identical with the object of the main clause, especially when the governing verb is a verb of perception:

> Σε είδα να χορεύεις.
>> 'I saw you dancing'.

c) Identical with the indirect object of the main clause;
> Του ζήτησα να με κουρέψει με την ψιλή.
>> 'I asked him to cut my hair short with the machine'.

d) Other:
> Πρέπει να την βοηθήσουμε.
>> 'We must help her'.
> Απαιτεί να τη σέβονται ως άτομο.
>> 'She demands to be respected (lit. that they respect her) as an individual'.

When the subject of the να-clause is to be explicitly stated, it must be placed:

either after the verb:	Πρέπει να αλλάξει η δημόσια διοίκηση.
or before να:	Πρέπει η δημόσια διοίκηση να αλλάξει.
or:	Η δημόσια διοίκηση πρέπει να αλλάξει.
	'Public administration must change'.

With transitive verbs, however, the 'proleptic' construction is often preferred, in which the subject of the να-clause is made the object of the governing verb:

Σε θέλω να με βοηθήσεις.
> 'I want you to help me'.

[Ο Γλωσσικός 'Ομιλος Κύπρου αντιμάχεται] απόψεις, που άλλοτε θέλουν την Αγγλική να επισκιάσει την Ελληνική κι άλλοτε την Κυπριακή διάλεκτο να ανάγεται σε επίσημη γραπτή γλώσσα εις βάρος της Κοινής Ελληνικής.
> 'The Linguistic Association of Cyprus combats views according to which either English should overshadow Greek or the Cypriot dialect should be elevated to the official written language to the detriment of Standard Greek'.

The 'proleptic' construction is possible even in cases where the object function seems doubtful:

Τον γιατρό ήθελα να με κοιτάξει λίγο να ιδώ τι έχω.
'I wanted the doctor to have a look at me, to find out what was wrong with me'.

Δεν ήλπιζα τον ουρανό στη γη να βρέξει αίμα.
'I did not expect the sky to rain blood on the land' (ήλπιζα τον ουρανό is an impossible construction by itself).

The predilection for the construction 'accusative object + epexegetic clause', traditionally termed prolepsis, is not confined to να-clauses, but is a general feature of Greek syntax:

Σε ξέρω τι άνθρωπος είσαι.
'I know what kind of man you are'.

It goes back to Ancient Greek:

Οἶδας Εὐθύδημον ὁπόσους ὀδόντας ἔχει;
'Do you know how many teeth Euthydemos has?' (lit. 'Do you know Euthydemos how many teeth he has?')

Besides the choice of number and person, the governing verb may also determine the tense and aspect of the να-clause. We shall use this distinction to classify this group of να-clauses:

1) verbs demanding Impf.NP in the να-clause: e.g. αρχίζω 'begin'.

2) verbs generally taking Impf.NP, and only exceptionally Perf.NP, e.g.: βλέπω 'see'.

3) verbs taking Perf.NP, Impf.NP and Impf.Past, e.g. θέλω 'want', μπορώ 'can'.

4) verbs allowing any non-past or past form, e.g. πιστεύω 'believe'.

It should be stressed, however, that it is the sense, not the aspect or tense (mood) of the governing verb that determines the choice.

8.3.1. να + only imperfective non-past

After verbs indicating beginning, end, continuation and habit, such as αρχίζω, σταματώ, εξακολουθώ, συνηθίζω, only imperfective non-past is admitted:

Εξακολουθώ να μη σας καταλαβαίνω.
'I continue not to understand you' ('I still don't to understand you').

Δεν θα πάψουνε να με φοβούνται.
'They will not stop fearing me'.

Είχε έναν παράξενο τρόπο να φτύνει.
'He had a strange way of spitting'.

Οι τουρίστες σταμάτησαν να περνούν απ' το χωριό.
'The tourists have stopped passing through the village'.

Τα σκυλιά κουράστηκαν πια να γαυγίζουν.
'The dogs got tired of barking'.

Συνηθίζει να τρώει αργά.
'He usually eats late'.

Είχαμε αρχίσει να ντυνόμαστε.
'We had begun to get dressed'.

The reason for this almost mechanical rule is obvious: the perfective non-past would refer to a 'completed whole', whereas 'start' and 'stop' evidently imply that the action referred to *continues* from or until a certain point:

αρχίζω	εξακολουθώ/συνηθίζω	σταματώ
|......	↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	......|
→	να τραγουδώ	←

In in older literature e.g. in the texts of Dionysios Solomos (1798-1856), αρχίζω is sometimes found with the Perf.NP:

Και άρχισα να συλλογιστώ απάνου στη δικαιοσύνη του θεού...
'And I began to think about God's justice...'[27].

Instead of the να-clause a paratactical construction with και + imperfective non-past or past (according to context) can be used, but only when the main verb is not negated:

Άρχισα να ντύνομαι or άρχισα και ντυνόμουν 'I began to get dressed'

– but not:

*Δεν άρχισα και ντυνόμουν.

Εξακολουθούν και τον νομίζουν Επικούρειο.
'They continue to believe him to be an Epicurean'.

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[27] See Elsie Mathiopoulos. Zur Ausformung von Stil und Begrifflichkeit im Werk des Dionysios Solomos, Folia Neohellenica, Band IX, 1999, p. 13.

Rarely a perfective is found:

'Αρχισε και μπήκαν στη ζωή μου και οι συλλήψεις πια τακτικές.
       'Arrests, now at recurrent intervals, began to come into my life'
       (notice also the impersonal άρχισε).

The και-construction cannot be used after verbs meaning 'stop'.

8.3.2. να + mostly imperfective non-past

The Impf.NP is predominant after verbs of perception (1.) and verbs og
(dis)liking and learning (2.).

1. After verbs of perception, like αισθάνομαι, ακούω, βλέπω, νιώθω, the
most frequent construction corresponding to the English infinitive or ing-form
is a clause introduced by να with the verb in the Impf.NP:

Την είδα να χαμογελάει
       'I saw her smiling'.

Instead of a να-clause there are two other possible constructions for the object
predicate:

'I heard him shout(ing)' =

a) να + Impf NP: τον άκουσα να φωνάζει
b) που + Impf.NP or Past:
          τον ακούω που φωνάζει/τον άκουσα που φώναζε
c) και + Impf.NP or Past:
          τον ακούω και φωνάζει/τον άκουσα και φώναζε.

In b) and c) we have an Impf.Past after past tense of the governing verb.
Present tense: τον ακούω που/και φωνάζει.

With a subject in the dependent clause instead of an accusative object in the
main clause:
'Ακουσα που φώναζε ο πατέρας.
       'I heard the father shouting'.

Που and και are more emphatic than να, insisting on the reality of what is
referred to, so that a distinction may be drawn between:

Δεν τον άκουσα να φωνάζει   'I didn't hear him shout' (and did he?).
Δεν τον άκουσα που φώναζε   'I didn't hear him shouting' (but now
                                   I know that he was shouting).

Βλέπω without an accusative object, followed by a να-clause, usually has a
metaphorical sense:

Βλέπω να συμφωνείτε.
       'I see (= understand) that you agree'.

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'Οτι and πως on the other hand correspond to an English that-clause:

'Άκουσα πως είναι άρρωστος.
        'I have heard that he is ill'.

Examples with να:

'Άκουσα τους λύκους να ουρλιάζουν.
        'I heard the wolves howling'.

Στο μόλο είδα έναν παπά να κουβεντιάζει μ' έναν ψαρά.
        'At the pier I saw a priest talking to a fisherman'.

Βλέπουν να περνάει μπροστά τους ο κόσμος δίχως να τους φοβάται πια.
        'They see people passing by in front of them without fearing them'.

Νιώθω τον φόβο να με κυριεύει.
        'I feel fear coming over me'.

With a perfect:
Αιστάνεσαι μια γλυκειά ζέστα να 'χει μπει στο κορμί σου.
        'You feel a sweet warmth to have entered your body'.

Normally the imperfective aspect is used after verbs of sense perception because of the relation between perceiver and thing perceived: we perceive what is *going* on. But if the completion of the action perceived is to be stressed, the perfective aspect can be used:

Είδε τη μανούλα του να γελάσει.
        'He saw his mummy laugh' (for a moment, uttering a laugh, say ha, ha).

Είδε τη μανούλα του να γελάει.
        'He saw his mummy laughing' (she was laughing and he saw it).

Και δε σ' είδα ποτέ δάκρυα να χύσεις.
        'And I have never seen you shed tears' (Solomos)[28].

Είχε δει μια μέρα να παρουσιαστούν δύο σαύρες μεγάλες (...) και να τον κοιτάζουν.
        'One day he had seen two big lizards appear (perf.) and look at him (impf.)'. The lizards suddenly appeared, then they were looking at him who was looking at them.

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[28] See also p. 83, footnote 27

Examples with που:

Μια φορά τον άκουσα που της μίλαγε.
      'Once I heard him talk to her'.

Τον είδα που άρχισε να γδύνεται.
      'I saw him start undressing' (he began (perf.) and went on undressing).

2. Verbs meaning '(dis)like to' and 'learn/teach how to', 'know how to', are more often followed by να + Impf.NP than by να + Perf.NP because they predominantly refer to general or habitual actions. Such verbs are: αρέσει, σιχαίνομαι and ξέρω, μαθαίνω, διδάσκω.

Examples with Impf.NP:

Μου άρεσε να την ακούω να μιλάει, να την βλέπω.
      'I liked to hear her talk, to see her'.

Του άρεσε να κάθεται στο σπίτι.
      'He liked to stay at home'.

Σιχάθηκα και να κλαίω και να μην κλαίω, όλα τα σιχάθηκα.
      'I got sick of crying as well as of not crying, I got sick of everything',

Ξέρω να ψαρεύω με το αγκίστρι και να ψήνω ψάρια.
      'I know how to fish with a hook and how to fry fish'.

Από τον πατέρα του είχε μάθει να πίνει και προσπαθούσε να μάθει στο γιο του να μη πίνει.
      'From his father he had learnt to drink, and he tried to teach his son not to drink'.

Εκείνη με είχε μάθει να λύνω μόνος μου τα προβλήματα.
      She had taught me to solve problems by myself'.

But the perfective is found when referring to a definite action:

Δεν ήξερα να του απαντήσω.
      'I did not know how to answer him' – cf. the phrase:

Δεν ήξερες να πεις αν ...
      'You could not tell whether ....'

Both ξέρουν να ζουν and ξέρουν να ζήσουν mean: 'They know how to live'. The perfective is more 'abstract', it states the fact outside the present moment: they know the art of life. The imperfective describes reality: they know how to live – and enjoy it!

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Finally να combines with any non-past or past form when equivalent to ότι/πως 'that':

Τα μόνα ξενόγλωσσα ποιήματα που ξέρουμε να έγραψε ποτέ ο Καβάφης είναι ....
> 'The only poems in a foreign language we know Kavafis ever to have written, are ...'.

8.3.3. να + Imperf.NP/Perf.NP/Impf.Past/Perfect/Pluperfect

As we saw on p. 71, in two thirds of the cases να is followed by Perf.NP, in less than 30% by an Impf.NP, and in about 4% by an Impf.Past, the remaining tenses covering only 1%. The distribution found in the previous paragraphs seems to contradict these numbers since the Perf.NP is excluded in 8.3.1 (αρχίζω να) and rare in 8.3.2 (βλέπω/ξέρω να). We now come to the large groups of verbs and phrases that save our statistics from lying, namely verbs, verbal phrases, nouns and adjectives indicating will, effort, obligation, necessity, capacity, possibility etc., e.g. θέλω, προσπαθώ, υποχρεώνω, πρέπει, αναγκάζω, έχω υποχρέωση, μπορώ, ντρέπομαι; επιθυμία, προσπάθεια, ανάγκη, δυνατότητα, ντροπή, έτοιμος, άξιος.

We thus get:

Impf.NP έπρεπε να γράφω   'I had to continue (or begin) writing'
Perf.NP έπρεπε να γράψω   'I had to write (this or that)'
Impf.Past (θα) έπρεπε να έγραφα 'I ought to write/have written'.

The perfective is, as usual, the 'unmarked' aspect, the imperfective being chosen only to insist on the repetition, duration or incompletion of the action or series of actions. Thus 'they have nothing to eat' is in Greek: δεν έχουν να φάνε: the perfective states the naked fact of 'no food'.

'Everyone must find a way to live' refers to an infinite number of cases, but nevertheless the normal translation will be: ο καθένας πρέπει να βρει έναν τρόπο για να ζήσει.

An example with both aspects of the same verb:
Μπορούμε να περπατήσουμε μαζί, αν δε σε πειράζει να περπατάω κοντά σου.
> 'We can have a walk together if you do not mind me walking beside you'

Since this is probably the most frequent use of the να-construction, well known from all manuals and grammars of Modern Greek, we shall here confine ourselves to some characteristic examples of να-clauses that illustrate the contrast between the imperfective and perfective aspect, and examples of να followed by Impf.Past, perfect and pluperfect[29]:

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[29] A very rich collection of examples belonging to this type of sentences (verb + να + Impf NP/Perf.NP/Impf.Past), is found in Tzartzanos vol 2 pp 77-94, under the heading Βουλητικές προτάσεις 'clauses of will'

a) να βλέπω
b) να υπάρχω
c) αφήνω να
d) έχω να
e) να + Impf.Past,
f) να + Perfect
g) να + Plupf.

a) να + βλέπω 'see'

Από το μικρό καγκελόφραχτο παράθυρο του κελλιού μου μπορούσα να βλέπω τις μοτοσικλέτες.
> From the small barred window in my cell, I could see the motorcycles'.

Πατώντας οποιοδήποτε πλήκτρο μπορούμε να βλέπουμε το κείμενο οθόνη-οθόνη.
> 'Pressing any key, we can see the text screen by screen'.

Δεν μπορούσε να δει ούτε τη γυναίκα ούτε τι ζωγράφιζε.
> 'He could neither see the woman nor what she was painting'. The perfective states the fact; να βλέπει τη γυναίκα would mean: 'he could not look at the woman' (even if he could get a glimpse of her) – or: 'he could not stand looking at her'.

Θέλω να δω αν είμαι τρελή.
> 'I want to see if I am mad' ('see' in the sense of 'ascertain').

Πόσο θα 'θελα να έβλεπα αυτό το βάραθρο.
> 'How I should like to see that precipice' (Impf.Past stressing 'distance from reality'. For more examples see below).

b) να + υπάρχω 'exist':

Η καραμέλα πρέπει να υπάρχει πάντοτε στην κουζίνα.
> 'Caramel should always be found in the kitchen'.

Δεν υπάρχει και δεν μπορεί να υπάρξει κανένα είδος υπερφυσικών ή εξωφυσικών φαινομένων.
> 'There is no such thing as, nor can there be any such thing as supernatural or extranatural phenomena' (υπάρξει refers to 'any time' outside the present moment, which is referred to by υπάρχει. να υπάρχει would mean: nor is it possible that there should be now...).

c) αφήνω να
Αφήνω means 'let, allow, leave'. Followed by να + Impf.NP it means 'let continue','do not interrupt' (or of repetition: 'always let happen'), by να + Perf.NP 'let happen', 'do not prevent'. The perfective is much more frequent than the imperfective:

Τον άφησα να κλαίει.
    'I let him cry' (I did not stop his crying).

Αφήνει τη βροχή να τον δέρνει.
    'He lets the rain lash him'.

Δεν μ' αφήναν σχεδόν ποτέ να κοιμηθώ.
    'They hardly ever allowed me to go to sleep' (να κοιμάμαι would mean: to be asleep = they always woke me up).

Ήρθα να σας ζητήσω να μ' αφήσετε να σας ανοίξω την καρδιά μου.
    'I have come to ask you to let me open my heart to you'.

Δεν τους άφησε να προχωρήσουν.
    'He did not allow them to continue' (They had stopped, they were not allowed to start again – να προχωρούν would imply that they were already moving).

Θα προτιμούσα να μ' άφηνες να φύγω.
    'I would prefer if you would let me go' (as I intend to do; να φεύγω would mean: as I have already begun to).

d) έχω να 'I have (to ...):

Έχω + object + να is a very frequent expression (see also p. 114):

Έχω κάτι να σου πω.
    'I have something to tell you'.

Without object we find:
Εγώ δεν έχω να κάνω σ' αυτή τη δουλειά.
    'I have nothing to do with that business'.

But a special case is constituted by expressions of time:
έχω καιρό να ... has two meanings:
    i) It is a long time since I ...
    ii) I have time enough to...

In i) να is followed by an Perf.NP. In ii) both aspects can be used.
For καιρό(ς) any other expression of time may be substituted:

i)
Είχα τόσον καιρό να πιάσω εφημερίδα στα χέρια μου.
'It was very long since I had had a newspaper in my hands'.

Είχαμε χρόνια να βρεθούμε.
'We had not met for years'.

Είχα έξι χρόνια να ιδώ θέατρο.
'I had not been to the theatre for six years'.

Είχα να τον δω από τη νύχτα στο καφενείο.
'I had not seen him since the night at the cafe'.

ii)
Δεν έχω καιρό να νοσταλγώ.
'I have no time to be nostalgic'.

Έχουμε ακόμα καιρό να δούμε και να χαρούμε όλες τις χώρες.
'We still have time to see and enjoy all the countries'. Without ακόμα the sentence would be ambiguous.

Cf. also:
Δύο-τρεις ώρες να σημάνει μεσημέρι, τα πάντα είχανε νετάρει.
'Two or three hours before the stroke of twelve everything had been managed'.

Έκανα μερικές νύχτες να κοιμηθώ.
'It took me some nights before I could sleep again'.

e) να + Impf.Past

Να + imperfective past is used in a modal, unreal or potential sense, except when governed by one of the verbs belonging to group 8.3.4 (see below). The modal use is mainly found when the governing verb itself expresses unreality or potentiality, i.e. above all after θα + Impf.Past.

Θα προτιμούσα να μ' άφηνες να φύγω.
'I would prefer if you would let me go' (the past άφηνες indicates that it will be difficult to achieve. If a Perf.NP (να μ' αφήσεις) was used, the other's reluctance would seem less insurmountable – but the difference is slight).

Θα έπρεπε πιθανότατα να μη συνέχιζα τη συζήτηση.
'I probably ought not to have continued the discussion.'

Να είχες μάνα να σ' έκλαιγε!
'I wish you had a mother who could weep over you!'

Του πέρασε μια στιγμή η σκέψη να παντρευότανε μια θεατρίνα.
'For a moment the idea went through him that he might marry an actress'.

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f) να + Perfect

Μεγάλη χαρά να σηκωθείς ένα πρωί και να έχεις πάρει μια μεγάλη απόφαση.
>'What a great joy to get up one morning having made a great decision'.

Φρόντισε να έχεις πεθάνει μέχρι τη Δευτέρα!
>'Make sure that you are dead by Monday!'

g) να + Plupf.

Τώρα θα 'πρεπε να είχε ανατείλει ο ήλιος.
>'By now the sun ought to have risen'.

Ο θεολόγος θα 'θελε κι ο Θεός ακόμα να 'χε πεθάνει από συγκοπή.
>'The theologian would have preferred God himself to have died from heart-failure'.

8.3.4. να + any non-past or past form

After a limited number of verbs να combines with any non-past or past form. The perfective past always retains its past sense, whereas the imperfective past can be used both as a past tense and with a modal sense. We shall distinguish two subclasses:

a) Impersonal expressions.

After impersonal verbs (or equivalent nominal phrases) expressing logical possibility, probability, sufficiency and the like: αποκλείεται, αρκεί = φτάνει, μπορεί, πρέπει, είναι δυνατόν, είναι παράξενο/φυσικό etc.

We thus get:

αποκλείεται: 'it is out of the question:'
    να συμφωνούν 'that they agree'
    να συμφωνήσουν 'that they will agree'
    να συμφωνούσαν 'that they agreed (or: would agree)'
    να συμφώνησαν 'that they agreed (accepted)'.

Πρέπει να either means 'must' = is obliged to, and then belongs to 8.3.3, excluding the Perf.Past, or 'must logically', and then follows the above pattern.
So πρέπει να έρθει is either 'he has to come' or 'he must come (I surmise)'.
But πρέπει να ήρθε only means: 'he must have come'.

Examples:
Μα να ξέρεις, μπορεί να σ' αγαπήσω όλη μου τη ζωή.
>'But you must know, it may be that I'll love you all my life'.

Και πολλοί μπορεί να έπεσαν και στη θάλασσα.
>   'Many people may even have fallen into the sea'.

Σε είδαν να μπαίνεις; – Ξέρω κι εγώ, πρέπει να με είδαν.
>   'Did they see you come in? – I don't know, they must have seen me'.

Θα πήγαινε στο γιατρό φτάνει να είχε καιρό και διάθεση.
>   'Of course he would go to the doctor as soon as he had time and felt like it' (φτάνει να: lit. 'enough that' = 'provided that').

Τρία πράγματα είναι δυνατό να έχουν συμβεί: ή να σκόνταψε ή να ζαλίστηκε και να έπεσε κάτω ή να χτυπήθηκε από αριστερούς.
>   'There are three possibilities as to what happened: either he stumbled, or he got dizzy and fell down, or he was hit by left-wingers'.

Κι αφού είχε γίνει γάμος, τι; απίστευτο ήταν να είχαν κάμει και παιδιά;
>   'And now that they had married, was it then unbelievable that they had also got children?'

Note: ίσως να (p. 79) belongs in a way to this group, equivalent to μπορεί να, except that ίσως cannot be negated nor express time:

Ίσως και να το είπα έτσι, χωρίς λόγο.
>   'Maybe that I expressed myself like that, without any reason'.

b) Hope, believe, remember, imagine

After the verbs ελπίζω 'hope', θυμάμαι 'remember', πιστεύω 'believe', φαντάζομαι 'imagine', the impersonal φαίνεται 'it seems', and similar expressions, e.g. έχω την ελπίδα, and sometimes also after other verbs of meaning such as: (δεν) νομίζω 'I (do not) think', να can be used as an introductive of the object (subject) clause almost synonymous with ότι/πως. After θυμάμαι the να-clause can also be volitive ('remember to ...'), in opposition to ότι/πως ('remember that ...'):

Δεν θυμήθηκα να πάρω μαζί μου το όπλο.
>   'I forgot to take the gun with me.

Έλεγα να θυμηθώ να ρωτήσω τα παιδιά.
>   'I told myself to remember to ask the others'.

But:
Θυμάμαι ότι έκανε κρύο εκείνη την ημέρα.
>   'I remember it was cold that day'.

Κατά τύχη θυμήθηκα πως δούλευα πριν από 6 μήνες και τρόμαξα.
>   'As it happens, I remembered that six months earlier I had been working, and I was terrified'.

When following all the above-mentioned verbs, να can also be used as an equivalent to ότι/πως, often giving a more 'subjective' character to the subordinate clause. In this case it combines with all non-past and past forms, Perf.NP referring to future time.

Να is especially frequent when the main verb is negated:

Examples:

Ελπίζω να μη σας ξύπνησα.
        'I hope, I did not wake you'.

Ήταν η τελευταία φορά που θυμάμαι να είδα τον πατέρα μου νέο.
        'That was the last time that I remember seeing my father young'.

Σπάνια θυμάμαι να γέλασα τόσο πολύ.
        'I scarcely remember having laughed so much'.

Εκείνος ο γιατρός πιστεύεις να γελάει ποτέ;
        'That doctor – do you think he ever laughs?'

Δεν φαντάζομαι να γελάσουν.
        'I do not imagine that they will laugh'.

Δεν πιστεύω να με ξαναδείτε πια.
        'I don't think you'll see me again'.

Φαντάσου το κουνέλι να 'ταν άνθρωπος!
        'Imagine the rabbit were a man!' (Impf.Past in modal sense).

Οι εξαγωγές δεν φαίνεται να αυξάνονται σε όγκο.
        'Exports do not seem to grow in volume'.

Θα του φαινόταν πολύ παράξενο να μην τον έπνιγε κι αυτόν η πλημμύρα.
        'He would be surprised if the flood would not drown him too (like his father)' (past future: he felt sure that he would be drowned one day: μια μέρα θα τον έπνιγε η πλημμύρα).

Οι στόχοι μας φαίνεται να επιτεύχθηκαν.
        'It appears that our objectives have been attained'.

The personal φαίνομαι 'seem' combines only with imperfective forms, like other verbs of sensation:

Σώπασε και φάνηκε να διστάζει.
        'He stopped talking and seemed to hesitate'.

Φαίνεσαι να μην καταλαβαίνεις τίποτα.
        'Apparently you do not understand anything'.

Δεν φαίνονταν να είχαν κέφι.
        'They seemed grumpy'.

8.4. Subordinate να-clauses governed by 'small words'

We shall now examine a number of cases in which the subordinate clause containing a να is not governed by the verb of the main clause. Να can be preceded by:

a. the definite article: το να ....
b. a preposition: χωρίς να ...
        preposition + definite article: με το να ...
c. an introductive: που να ...
d. an indefinite relative pronoun or adverb: όποιος να ...

8.4.1. Definite article + να/ότι

The definite article underlines the nominal nature of the να-clause. It is indispensable after certain prepositions (see below), but the construction *may* also be used in other cases, particularly when the να-clause functions as subject of the main clause. The genitive του να ... can be used when the clause is governed by a noun or by a preposition (see below 8.4.2).

Examples:

Το να κάνεις έρωτα είναι απλό, το να κάνεις έρωτα μ' έναν άνθρωπο που αγαπάς πολύ πιο δύσκολο, το να μπορέσεις να περάσεις σε μια μορφή έρωτα πέρα από τον σωματικό είναι ακόμα πιο σημαντικό.
       'Making love is easy, making love with a person you are in love
       with is much more difficult, to be able to pass to a form of love
       beyond the physical, is even more important'.

Ένας άνθρωπος που έχει επάγγελμα το να γράφει τραγούδια...
       'A man to whom the writing of songs is a profession...'

Το να γράψει κανείς ένα τραγούδι αληθινό απαιτεί μια ψυχή ώριμη.
       'The writing of a true song demands a mature soul'.

Νόμιζα ότι το να μην ξαπλώνει κανείς το μεσημέρι αποτελεί πράξη επαναστατική.
       '(At that time) I thought it to be a revolutionary act not to have a
       nap in the afternoon'.

Σε τι θα ωφελούσε το να μπαίναμε σ' αυτόν τον κόπο;
       What would we gain from taking upon us all that trouble?'

Ο τρόπος του να σκέφτεται κανείς.
       'The way of thinking'.

Η δυστυχία του να είσαι Έλληνας.
       'The misfortune of being a Greek'.

8.4.2. Preposition + να

Many prepositions can govern a subordinate clause. Some prepositions may be followed directly by να, others demand the definite article (το να), while πριν and σαν may also introduce a subordinate clause directly.
The following table shows the possibilities of combining a preposition with these three types of clauses:

	το να ...	να ...	verb without να
αντί		+	
από	+		
για	+	+	
δίχως ...		+	
με	+		
μέχρι ...		+	
παρά	(+)	+	
πριν		+	+
προς	+		
σαν	(+)	+	+
σε	+		
χωρίς		+	
ως 'until'[30]		+	

Παρά, πριν and σαν are included here as prepositions. The first column (το να ...) should not be considered exhaustive: almost every preposition may (at least theoretically) govern a substantivated clause introduced by να or ότι, those taking genitive being followed by του να (resp. του ότι).

Prepositions can also introduce indefinite relative clauses (απ' όποιον θέλεις 'from whomever you want') or που-clauses (μέχρι που). In this chapter, however, we shall only deal with να-clauses, including the omission of να, whether the omission is in free variation with να or in opposition to it.

In the constructions of the first column preposition + article + να constitute an inseparable word group into which no other word can be inserted.

In the constructions without the article (column 2) there is a free field (see p. 72) between the preposition and να, with the exception of για να ('in order to'), which cannot be separated. As for column 3, it is possible to insert words between the preposition and the verb (with its negative and pronouns).

Να combines with Perf.NP, Impf.NP and Impf.Past, the latter only in conditional contexts to stress the hypothetical sense. Πριν and σαν, however, constitute special cases (see below).

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[30] The conjunction/preposition ως 'till, until' is often written with an accent: ώς, in contradistinction to the completely unstressed ως 'as' For ως να = σαν να 'as if', see under σαν

Prepositions governing the genitive rarely combine with a να-clause[31]:

Όλα αυτά συνηγορούν υπέρ του να αποδεχθούμε τις προτάσεις.
'All this speaks in favour of our accepting the propositions'.

αντί

Αντί 'instead of' combines directly with να:

Αντί να κερδίσω, έχανα βάρος.
'Instead of putting on weight, I was losing weight'.

Αντί ν' αγαπάει τα βιβλία, αγαπούσε και θαύμαζε τα σύνεργα της κουζίνας.
'Instead of loving books, she loved and admired kitchen utensils'.

Αντί να πηγαίνει στο Πανεπιστήμιο, είχε τυπώσει κάρτες με τον τίτλο δικηγόρο.
'Instead of going to university, he had had cards printed with the title of lawyer'.

από

The να-clause is regularly introduced by the definite article. When followed by a subordinate clause, από normally has the sense of 'than', so that από το να is equivalent to παρά να.

Από το να κάθεται κανείς καλύτερα να εργάζεται.
'Working is better than idling'.

Δεν έκαναν τίποτε άλλο από το να πράξουν το καθήκον τους.
'They did nothing but their duty'.

Elliptical:
Δεν υπάρχει χαρά μεγαλύτερη από του να δίνεις ψωμί στους πεινασμένους. (Καζαντζάκης)
'There exists no greater pleasure than that of giving bread to the hungry' (the genitive is governed by χαρά: the pleasure consisting in ...).

Από also combines with other introductives and indefinite relative pronouns:

Απ' όταν θυμάμαι τη ζωή μου, θυμάμαι τη θάλασσα.
'As far back as I remember my life, I remember the sea'.

Απ' ό,τι ξέρω...
'As far as I know...'

---

[31] But some prepositions regularly govern a ότι-clause: εκτός του ότι 'besides the fact that . ', λόγω του ότι because of the fact that .'

για

Για + subordinate clause occurs in two different constructions:

a) για το να/ότι (speak, write, think) of / about the idea of ..ing:

Αυτά τα στοιχεία με έπεισαν για το ότι ο κλητήρας είχε διηγηθεί την ιστορία πολλές φορές.
> 'These facts persuaded me that the caretaker had told the story many times'.

This combination is little used.

b) για να 'in order to …' (expressing purpose, but also result).

In για να the two elements are closely linked together, so that contrary to other prepositional clauses without the definite article, no element may be inserted between για and να[32]. This peculiarity of final introductives is also found in other Balkan languages, e.g. in Bulgarian (za da).

Purpose is also expressed by να alone, especially after verbs of motion ('destination'). Other introductive expressions with a final sense are the very frequent προκειμένου να ('with a view to, in order to') and με σκοπό να ('for the purpose of')[33]. Negative purpose is expressed by για να μη or by μη alone, the latter often adding a touch of fear or anxiety: 'for fear that'.

Αρκεί να πείτε σ' έναν 'Ελληνα ότι κάνει ζέστη για ν' αρχίσει αμέσως να ιδρώνει, μόνο και μόνο για να σας κάνει ευχαρίστηση.
> 'It is enough to tell a Greek that it is hot to make him start sweating at once, just to make you happy'.

'Εφυγε στα ξένα για να μη ξαναγυρίσει πια.
> 'He went abroad never to return' (result) – or: 'He went abroad in order never to return' (intention).

Εγώ γεννήθηκα να τραγουδώ και να κλαίω.
> 'I was born to sing and weep' (purpose or result?).

Δεν τους περισσεύουν λεφτά να μπουν στο καφενείο και να πιούν έναν καφέ.
> 'They have no money left to go into the café for a cup of coffee'. In front of να, για might be inserted, or ώστε. The latter would stress the consecutive meaning.

'Ηρθα να σε πάρω με γλυκό σκοπό.
> 'I have come to fetch you with sweet music' (για να would be heavier: in order to…).

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[32] Some people write γιανα in one word.

[33] E g Πρέπει να κάνουμε κάποιες παραδοχές προκειμένου να βρεθεί η καλύτερη λύση 'We must make some concessions in order to find the best solution'. Το τζιν πρωτοεμφανίστηκε στην Αμερική γύρω στο 1850 με σκοπό να καλύψει τις ανάγκες των εργατών του Σαν Φρανσίσκο 'Jeans first appeared in America about 1850 to cover the needs of workers in San Francisco'.

Δουλεύει σα σκυλί για να μη λείπει τίποτα στη γυναίκα του.
'He works like a dog in order that his wife may want nothing'.

Κλείσε την πόρτα μην κρυώσει το παιδί!
'Shut the door so that the child does not get cold!'

Examples with για να + Impf.Past and Plupf.:

Ω, τι δε θα 'δινα για να ξανάβρισκα την ωραία εκείνη ευπιστία των παιδικών μου χρόνων.
'Oh, what would I not give to find again that beautiful credulity of my childhood!'

Θα μου τηλεφωνούσε αύριο στη δουλειά για να κανονίζαμε.
'He would call me tomorrow at work to arrange a meeting' (past future/indirect speech).

Χίλιες φορές να μην είχες κάνει αυτήν την δούλεψη στον βασιλέα, για να μην είχαν δει τα μάτια μου αυτά που είδαν έως τώρα.
'I wish a thousand times you had not done that job for the King, so that my eyes should not have seen what they have seen till now' (Βιζυηνός).

Of two or more final clauses following each other, usually only the first one is introduced by για να, all the others by να alone:

Η καλή μας αγελάδα	'Our good cow
βόσκει κάτω στη λιακάδα	is grazing in the sunshine
μικρά χόρτα και μεγάλα	eating little plants and big ones
για να κατεβάσει γάλα	to give milk
να το κάνουνε τυράκι	so that they can make cheese,
να το κάνουν βουτυράκι	that they can make butter,
να το βάλουνε στο πιάτο	that they can put it on my plate
να μου πουν: Ορίστε, φα 'το!	and say, There now, eat it!'

The perfective aspect in all the final clauses shows that each single action is viewed as a concrete, completed whole: the child does not think of continuous milk production, but just of having his (or her) portion, even if the verb of the second line refers to what the cow always does: the cow grazes …

Για να is also used after expressions meaning 'too much (to …)' and – alternating with simple να – 'sufficient (to …)':

Ήμουν πολύ κοντά για να μην ακούω τι λέγατε.
'I was too close to you to avoid hearing what you were talking about'.

Το βιβλίο αυτό είναι πολύ τολμηρό για να το διαβάσουν οι γονείς μου.
'This book is too dirty for my parents to read it'.

Η δύναμη του κινητήρα είναι αρκετή για να κινήσει το βαρύ αυτοκίνητο.
 'The power of the engine is sufficient to drive the heavy car'.

In popular language για να is found instead of a simple να:

Στην Ελλάδα δεν μπορώ
μια γυναίκα για να βρω.
 'In Greece I cannot find a woman' (from a rembetico song).

δίχως: see χωρίς

με

Με το να is mainly used to denote instrument and cause:

Σκότωναν την ώρα τους με το να διηγούνται διάφορα όνειρα.
 'They used to kill time telling each other about various dreams'.

Με το να μην ακούς κανέναν βλέπεις τι παθαίνεις.
 'Now you see what happens to you if you do not listen to anybody'.

Δεν θα σωθούμε με το να αφορίσουμε τα ρομπότ.
 'We won't be saved by banning robots'.

μέχρι 'until':

παρά

Παρά 'rather than, except, (nothing) but' must be distinguished from πάρα 'very, too'. It is used before the second member of a comparison, usually only when the comparison is a prepositional phrase or an entire clause, whereas the preposition από 'than' is used before a single word or a noun phrase. We thus find:

...... παρά στην Αίγυπτο	= than in Egypt ...
...... παρά όταν	= than when ...
...... παρ' ό,τι νομίζεις	= than you think ...

Especially common is παρά να:

Προτιμώ να φύγω παρά να μείνω εδώ χωρίς εσένα.
 'I prefer to leave rather than to stay here without you'.

Άλλο δεν έχει στο νου της παρά να παίζει και να γελά.
 'She has nothing in her head except playing and laughing'.

Ἴσως προτιμάτε να πεθάνετε παρά να σας πριονίσουν το χέρι.
  'Maybe you prefer to die rather than having your hand sawn off'.

Δεν μπορώ παρά να means: 'I cannot help ...':

Μια γλώσσα δεν μπορεί παρά να ανανεώνεται σιγά σιγά.
  'It is inevitable that a language renews itself gradually'.

As for παρά λίγο να 'almost' see p. 80.

πριν (προτού)

Πριν and its rarer synonym προτού[34] combine almost exclusively with the perfective non-past – Impf.NP may, however, be used if the notion of repetition is to be stressed, or if the verb in question possesses no perfective (πριν είναι αργά 'before it's too late'). But the perfective is the 'natural' aspect of a πριν-clause, because it puts a limit to the action of the main clause, and the subordinate verb necessarily refers to an action not coinciding with that of the main clause. But it is a peculiar feature that only the *non-past* is used, no matter whether it refers to present, past, future or hypothetical time:

Να may be inserted before the verb, but there is no difference of meaning between πριν φύγω and πριν να φύγω. Without να the construction is that of an introductive (cf. αν φύγω); with να it becomes a prepositional clause like αντί να φύγω. Πριν is probably the only case where the insertion of να is optional.

Πριν (or προτού) + Perf.NP without να:

Φύγαμε πριν έρθουν.
  'We left before they came'.

Συνηθίζουν να χτενίζονται πριν κοιμηθούν.
  'They usually brush their hair before they go to sleep'.

Ευτύχησε να δει πριν πεθάνει την έκδοση των απάντων του.
  'He had the good fortune of seeing his complete works published before he died'.

Δυσκολεύομαι ν' αρθρώσω τις λέξεις πριν πιω καφέ και καπνίσω.
  'It is difficult for me to articulate words before I have had a coffee and smoked a cigarette'.

Δεν είχα ποτέ κανέναν εραστή προτού σε γνωρίσω.
  'I never had a lover before I met you'.

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[34] Προτού is, contrary to πριν, never used as an adverb, nor as a preposition: πριν το μεσημέρι, but not. *προτού το μεσημέρι. Προτού is a pure introductive, whereas πριν functions both as introductive, preposition and adverb.

Πριν (or προτού) + Perf.NP with να:

Τα λόγια σου πριν να τα πεις μέτρα τα ένα ένα.
> 'Count your words one by one before you speak them out'.

Πάντοτε πριν να νυχτώσει, γυρνούσε στην καλύβα.
> 'He always returned to the cottage before night'.

Πριν + Impf.NP

Η κοπέλα πρέπει να κάνει έκτρωση, και μάλιστα τώρα αμέσως, πριν είναι πολύ αργά.
> 'The girl must have an abortion, now immediately, before it's too late'.

Πρέπει να ξεκαθαρίζεις πρώτα τα νοήματά σου πριν καταφεύγεις σε ωραίες λέξεις και σπάνιες. (Μαν. Τριανταφυλλίδης)
> 'You must clarify your thoughts before you resort to beautiful and rare words'.

προς

Ως προς το να 'as regards, concerning' is a rather learned expression:

Ως προς το να ταξιδέψεις δεν συμφωνώ καθόλου.
> 'As to your journey, I do not agree at all' (= όσο για το ταξίδι σου).

σαν

Whereas πριν and πριν να are in free variation, there is a clearcut distinction between σαν = 'as ', and σα(ν) να[35] = 'as if.'
Σαν 'like' is a preposition, governing the accusative when followed by the definite article or a definite pronoun[36]:

Χώρες σαν την Αγγλία.
> 'Countries like England'.

Η αγορά ήταν έρημη σαν την έρημο.
> 'The market place was deserted like the desert'

a) σαν (without να) mostly indicates time (= όταν, μόλις) 'as, when, as soon as'); when followed by Perf.NP it can also be equivalent to a conditional introductive (= αν 'if'), and more rarely it is used in a causal sense (=

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[35] The basic form of the word is σαν (shortened from ωσάν). The shorter form σα reflects the pronunciation before non stop consonants, but is hardly used today.

[36] But without rection when σαν is equivalent to ως: το 1992 θα μείνει στην ιστορία σαν η χρονιά που... '1992 will remain in history as the year when...'.

αφού) 'as, because, since'. But in contemporary Greek it never introduces a comparative clause ('just as, like') – this is done by όπως, καθώς and κατά πώς: όπως ξέρεις 'as you know'.

b) σαν να introduces a comparative conditional clauses, 'as if'. The use of the verbal forms can briefly be exemplified as follows:

Impf.NP	σαν να γράφω	referring to any time, neutral.
Perf.NP	–	(not used)
Impf.Past	σαν να έγραφα	either past tense or denoting the comparison as unreal, or unlikely.
Perf.Past	σαν να έγραψα	referring to actions prior to that of the main verb.

a) Σαν without να:

Σα θέλεις, πήγαινε και συ μαζί τους.
    'If you want, you can go with them too'.

Αχ, πώς στενάζω σαν θυμάμαι την Αθήνα.
    'Oh, how I sigh when I think of Athens'.

Σα θυμηθώ τη μάνα μου, το αίμα μου παγώνει.
    'When I think of my mother, my blood freezes'.

Έγραφα σαν βρισκόμουν μόνος, από μια ανάγκη επικοινωνίας.
    'I used to write when I was alone, from a need of contact'.

Σαν έφτασε στο Λυκαβηττό κοίταξε γύρω του.
    'When he arrived at the Lycabettos hill, he looked around'.

Το παιδί θέλησε να μάθει ποια θα ήταν η τύχη του σα θα μεγάλωνε.
    'The child wanted to know what would be his destiny when he grew up'.

b) Σαν να = 'as if'

Κάνω πως δεν ξέρω ... ζω σα να μην ξέρω.
    'I pretend not to know... I live as if I do not know'.

Είναι ανόητο εμείς να έχουμε κλειστές τις δικές μας πόρτες σαν να ζούμε στον περασμένο αιώνα.
    'It is foolish for us to have our own doors shut as if we were living in the past century' (The Impf.Past would be equally possible: σαν να ζούσαμε, stressing the falseness of the comparison. The non-past rather indicates that we do live in an old-fashioned way).

Με στραβοκοίταξε τότε ο μάνατζερ, σα να βαριότανε να επαναλάβει.
    'Then the manager looked askance at me, as if he could not be bothered to repeat'.

Μας διατάζει σαν να ήταν αφέντης μας.
> 'He gives us orders as if he were our master' (but he isn't).

'Εγιναν άφαντοι σαν να τους κατάπιε η γη.
> 'They disappeared as if the earth had swallowed them up'.

'Εβαλε τα γέλια σαν ν' άκουσε αστείο.
> 'He began to laugh as if he had heard a joke'.

'Οταν αποφασίζω κάτι, είναι σα να έχει γίνει.
> 'When I decide something, it is as if it has already been done'.

Τρέκλιζαν σαν να είχανε μεθύσει άξαφνα.
> 'They staggered as if they had suddenly got drunk'.

Σαν να is also used after verbs such as μοιάζω ('look like') and φαίνομαι ('seem'), as a cautious equivalent to να or πως/ότι 'that', when the speaker makes a type of guess rather than a logical inference:

Μοιάζει σα να θύμωσαν.
> 'It looks as if they have become angry'.

In elliptical sentences, with a similar verb understood:

Μεμιάς σα να ησύχασε.
> 'Suddenly it was as if he calmed down'.

Η θάλασσα σαν να καλυτέρεψε κι ίσως φύγει καμιά βάρκα.
> 'The sea looks as if it has become smooth now so maybe a boat is going to leave'.

Remarks:

1) Since σαν is excluded after να, future time is expressed by circumlocutions, e.g.:

Διαβάζει βιβλία σα να είναι να ζήσει χίλια χρόνια.
> 'He reads books as if he were going to live for 1000 years'

2) Equivalent, but much rarer, to σαν να is ως να 'as if' (to be distinguished from ως να 'until') and the very informal σάμπως να. In older texts also καθώς να and όπως να are occasionally found:

Θάνατος [είναι] οι γυναίκες που αγαπιούνται / καθώς να καθαρίζουνε κρεμμύδια.
> 'Death is [also] the women who make love as if they were peeling onions' (Καρυωτάκης, 1928).

4) Word order:
a) σαν without να is in most cases followed directly by the verb:
σαν ήρθε ο πόλεμος 'as war began' rather than: σαν ο πόλεμος ήρθε.

b) σαν .... να may be separated, but usually only by a 'light' word or phrase
σαν κάτι να θυμήθηκε 'it was as if he remembered something'.

σε

Σε + να is used (with the definite article: στο να) in expressions such as:

Μ' αυτή την πράξη συντελείς στο ν' αλλάξει η ζωή.
'By this act you contribute to making life change'.

Η υποκρισία της δικτατορίας δεν συνίσταται μόνο στο να λέγεται δημοκρατική.
'The hypocrisy of dictatorship does not only consist in its calling itself democratic'.

χωρίς

Χωρίς and its rarer synonym δίχως are followed by Impf.NP, Perf.NP, and – rarely, in modal use – by Impf.Past. The perfective non-past simply states that the action does (/did) not occur when the action referred to by the main verb takes (/took) place. The imperfective non-past refers to an action or a state that does not take place at least during the action referred to by the main verb.
The first 8 examples are arranged in 4 pairs: a) = perfective, b) = imperfective.

(1a) Χωρίς να τον κοιτάξει άπλωσε το χέρι του και του έδειξε την τέντα.
'Without glancing at him, he stretched out his hand and showed him the tent'.

(1b) Αυτή χωρίς να τον κοιτάζει μουρμούρισε: ...
'She murmured, without looking at him ...'
The imperfective implies that she kept her eyes away from him all the time she was murmuring.

(2a) Κάθισε σ' ένα κασόνι χωρίς να μιλήσει σε κανένα.
'He sat down on a packing-case without saying a word to anybody'.

(2b) Κοιτάχτηκαν για λίγο χωρίς να μιλάνε.
'They looked at each other for a moment without speaking' (In 2a. he just did not open his mouth; in 2b. they kept silent during that moment).

(3a) Χωρίς να το καταλάβει κατάπιε κείνο το καταραμένο μολυβάκι.
'Without realizing it he swallowed that damned little pencil'.

(3b) Έκλαιγε βουβά χωρίς να το καταλαβαίνει ότι κλαίει.
'She was weeping silently without realizing that she wept' (In these cases there is a certain aspectual correspondence between main and

subordinate verb: in 3a. the pencil went down the throat before he could recognize (perf.) what happened; in 3b. she continued not to realize her weeping).

(4a) Ἔφευγε πάντα χωρίς να μας αποχαιρετήσει.
'He always left without saying goodbye to us'.

(4b) Εκεί καταφεύγανε όλοι, δίχως όμως να πετυχαίνουν και το σκοπό τους.
'All of them had recourse to that place, without however succeeding in getting what they wanted'.
(Both cases refer to repeated actions. In 4a. the simple goodbye is expressed by a perfective, in 4b. the imperfective of the να-clause stresses the notion of repetition).

(5) Και χωρίς να μου το 'λεγες, πατέρα, θα του φύλαγα μια μερίδα από την πίτα.
'Even if you had not told me, father, I would have put a portion of the pitta aside for him'.
The Impf.Past shows that the να-clause is equivalent to an unreal conditional clause: Κι αν δεν μου το 'λεγες ...

(6) Ένα πρωί θα άνοιγε το παράθυρο χωρίς να το 'χει από πριν σκεφτεί. Χωρίς να έχει προετοιμαστεί γι' αυτό.
'One morning he would open the window without having thought about it before. Without having prepared himself'.

With words inserted between χωρίς and να:

(7) Ἔφυγε ξαφνικά χωρίς κανένας να μάθει γιατί.
'He suddenly left, nobody being told why'.

(8) Τέλειωσε το ξύρισμα χωρίς τούτη τη φορά να κοπεί.
'He finished shaving without cutting himself this time'.

ως: 'until':

8.5. που and να

Που, next to να, is the most frequent introductive. It has a widespread use, corresponding roughly to 'that' introducing a relative or result clause. Here we shall only deal with the instances where που may alternate with or combine with να. It should be stressed, however, that there is some individual and dialectal variation in the use of να/που/πως/ότι.

8.5.1. που or να (but never που να).

Που alternates with να after verbs and other expressions of perception and emotion.

Perception: που and να are most frequently used as predicates to the object:

'I heard them speak'   = τους άκουσα που μιλούσαν, or:
                          = τους άκουσα να μιλάνε.

For the difference see p. 84. But both can also introduce a direct object clause:

Είδε που έλαμψε ένα φως.
       'He saw that a light had come on'.

Ένιωθε να του μουδιάζει το ραχοκόκκαλο.
       'He felt a shiver down his spine'.

When functioning as verbs of knowing or learning, the same verbs are followed by ότι/πως:

Έβλεπε πως οι πολλοί (από τους σφουγγαράδες) ήταν χτυπημένοι.
       'He saw (and understood) that most (of the sponge-fishers) were crippled'.

Θυμάμαι combines with all four introductives: να, που, πως, ότι:

Θυμήσου να πιεις και το υπόλοιπο φάρμακο.
       'Don't forget to drink the rest of the medicine'.

Ήταν η τελευταία φορά που θυμάμαι να είδα τον πατέρα μου νέο.
       'It was the last time I remember seeing my father as a young man'.

Θυμούμαι που οι πόρτες είχανε κλειστεί από το χιόνι.
       'I remember that the doors had been closed by the snow'.

Πολλοί θυμούνται πως ήταν ένα λαμπρό πρωινό.
       'Many people remember that it was a splendid morning'.

Θυμάμαι ότι με είχαν πάει στον Αγγελίδη, έναν φωτογράφο, για να μου βγάλει φωτογραφίες.
       'I remember that they had taken me to Angelidis, a photographer, so that he could take some pictures of me'.

Emotion:

Ντρέπομαι που δεν τον βοήθησα.
       'I am ashamed that I did not help him'.

Θα ντρεπόμουν να μην τον βοηθήσω.
      'I would be ashamed not to help him'.

Ο Θοδωρής ένιωθε χαρούμενος που θα παντρευόταν.
      'Thodoris felt happy that he was going to get married' (να
      παντρευτεί would be possible too).

Τι κρίμα να μην τον βοηθήσεις!
      'What a pity not to help him' =
      a. It would have been a shame not to help him.
      b. What a pity that you did not help him (= που δεν τον
      βοήθησες).
      c. It would be a shame not to help him (in the future).

So also καλύτερα να/που and similar:

Καλύτερα να του μιλήσω εγώ.
      'I had better talk to him'.

Καλύτερα να μην το 'ξερες.
      'It would have been better for you not to know it'.

Καλύτερα που μ' έβαλαν στο υπόγειο.
      'It was lucky that they had hidden me in the basement'.

8.5.2. που να

Clauses in which που να may occur fall into four groups:

1. Result clauses: που (να) = ώστε (να)
2. 'Until': ώσπου να, μέχρι που να
3. Relative clauses: που να = ο οποίος να
4. που να = και να, κι αν (= even if).

1) Result clauses

Result clauses are introduced by ώστε or που. Που is usually found only if preceded by a quantifying or qualifying 'signal word', such as τόσος, τέτοιος, έτσι. 'Ωστε is less ambiguous and may even introduce an independent clause with the verb in the imperative, or a direct question (see examples below).

Both που and ώστε are followed by clauses with and without να:

a) Without να:

Που or ώστε followed by any free verb form to express actual result, where θα + Impf.Past indicates what would be (would have been) the result under certain circumstances:

Η προφητεία τόσο καλά ταίριαζε με τις πιο κρυφές λαχτάρες μου που την πίστεψα.

'The prophecy suited my most secret longings so well that I believed it'.

Ο πατέρας σου σε αγαπάει τόσο πολύ που δεν θα θελήσει ποτέ να σε πικράνει.

'Your father loves you so much that he will never want to grieve you'.

Τόση ήταν η συμπόνια μου για τα δύο παιδιά ώστε θα μπορούσα να κάνω και αυτή τη θυσία.

'My sympathy for the two children was so great that I would be able to make even that sacrifice'.

Ήταν τόσο απελπισμένη ώστε είχε αποφασίσει να πει την αλήθεια στη μάνα της.

'She was so desperate that she had decided to tell the truth to her mother'.

Ώστε μην έχετε καμίαν ανησυχία.

'Therefore do not worry at all'.

Ώστε δεν έχεις καμίαν αντίρρηση;

'So you have no objections?'

b) With να:

Ώστε να / που να + Impf.NP/Perf.NP or – rarely, in modal use – + Impf.Past, to express *logical or intended consequence,* whether it actually occurs (occurred) or not. The Impf.NP is more frequent than the perfective because the result is often a state rather than an event. Sometimes, να alone functions as a result clause introductive.

Στάθηκε στην πόρτα της καλύβας έτσι που να μην φαίνουνται τα πόδια του.

'He stopped at the door of the cottage in such a way that his feet would not be seen' (να shows that it was the intended result; έτσι που δεν φαίνονταν would mean: so that his feet were invisible).

Σε γέλασα τόσες φορές ώστε να μη με πιστεύεις πια.

'I have fooled you enough times to make you disbelieve me' (possible consequence; ώστε δεν με πιστεύεις would imply that the speaker knows that 'you don't believe me', but the difference is very slight[37]).

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[37] In the text corpus provided to me in 1995 by the Institute of Language and Speech Processing in Athens (ILSP) out of a total number of 1046 occurrences, ώστε is combined with να (ώστε να, ώστε   να) in 743 cases.

Γράφει ρίμες τόσο πλούσιες που να μοιάζουν με λογοπαίγνια.
'He writes rhymes so rich that they are just like puns' (που μοιάζουν would mean rather the same – but there is tendency to prefer the να-construction).

Δεν είχα έγνοιες τόσο μεγάλες που να μου κόβουν τον ύπνο.
'My worries were not so great as to disturb my sleep'.

[Πρέπει] να ληφθούν μέτρα ώστε οι τηλεφωνικές συσκευές του Δημοσίου να ρυθμιστούν με τέτοιο τρόπο που να μην μπορούν να παίρνουν υπεραστικά ούτε να συνδέονται με τις ροζ γραμμές.
'Measures must be taken to ensure that telephones belonging to the State are adjusted in such a way that they cannot make long distance calls nor be connected with porno lines'.

Τους έκανε όλους να κλάψουν.
'He made them all cry' (this is the normal construction after κάνω – it is given here because ώστε να would be possible too, though unusual; που να, however, could not be used).

Ήταν μια κυρία με ρόμπα φανελλένια και χαμόγελα, να τη δεις και να λες: 'αυτή όπου να 'ναι αγιάζει'.
'She was a lady wearing a flannel dress and a smile, so that you would look at her and say, "That woman will become a saint before long".'

Μια τρύπα όσο να περνούν τα χέρια.
'A hole large enough for the hands to get through'.

2) *Until: μέχρι, μέχρι που, ώσπου, ωσότου, ως να.*

Μέχρι and ως (έως), both meaning 'until', when introducing a temporal clause, are used in different combinations:

μέχρι να, μέχρι που, μέχρι που να, μέχρις ότου[38], ώσπου, ώσπου να, ωσότου, έως ότου, ως να.

By far the most frequent combinations today are: ώσπου (and ώσπου να), μέχρι να and μέχρι που.

Note: μέχρι που and ώσπου must be distinguished from μέχρι πού and ως πού 'till where'.

In the large majority of cases the verb of the clause is in the perfective aspect, after μέχρι που, ώσπου (without να) and μέχρις ότου in the Perf.Past, after μέχρι να, μέχρι που να, ώσπου να and ως να almost invariably in the

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[38] The form μέχρις is always used in the collocation μέχρις ότου and sometimes elsewhere when the next word begins with a vowel.

Perf.NP, and finally after ωσότου both Perf.Past and Perf.NP occur (without να). But the Impf.NP can be used everywhere either as a present tense or to stress repetition.

a) without να, the verb being mostly Perf.Past: 'until actually'.

Κοιτούσα το πάτωμα μέχρι που άκουσα το αμάξι να φεύγει.
'I stared at the floor until I heard the car leaving'.

Δεν ξαναμίλησαν μέχρι που βρέθηκαν στο μικρό μπαρ.
'They did not speak again until they found themselves in the small bar'.

Εργαζόταν σαν δασκάλα ωσότου παντρεύτηκε.
'She worked as a teacher until she got married'.

Συνεχίσαμε την κουβέντα ώσπου συμφωνήσαμε όλοι.
'We continued to talk until we all agreed'.

Είχε την αίσθηση πως ... έτσι θα μεγάλωνε πάντα από μέρα σε μέρα ώσπου θα γινότανε ένας γίγαντας.
'He had the impression that ... in this way he would continue growing day by day until he became a giant'.

b) with να + mostly Perf.NP[39], in a 'prospective' sense: the action referred to by the 'until'-clause is or was expected, hoped for, or anticipated with fear, whether it actually happened or not. But often, as in the case of result clauses, the difference between the two constructions with and without να is very slight.

Πειραματίστηκα 15 χρόνια μέχρι να ανακαλύψω την αλήθεια.
'I experimented for 15 years until I [finally] discovered the truth'.

Μ'άφησε να περιμένω μέχρι που να τελειώσει το τσιγάρο του.
'He let me wait until he had finished his cigarette'.

Περιμένουν με υπομονή ώσπου να φορτώσει το καράβι.
'They are waiting patiently for the ship to be loaded' (the poor passengers are not allowed to go on board beforehand; ώσπου θα φορτώσει would just state the fact: until it has been loaded).

Βλέπουν (οι γονείς) πως αμέσως μόλις γεννηθεί το παιδί, φουσκώνει η κοιλιά του και μένει έτσι ώσπου να πεθάνει'.
They (the parents) see that as soon as the child is born, its belly swells up and remains so till it dies' (the baby's sad future is seen from the point of view of the parents).

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[39] Including ωσότου and μέχρις ότου + Perf.NP (without να)

Κάθησαν εκεί ώσπου να περάσει η μπόρα.
'They sat down, waiting for the storm to pass'.

Αν μπορούσα να κρατούσα τη θέση αυτή ως να τέλειωνε ο πόλεμος!
'I wish I could keep the job until the war is over' (Impf.Past in a modal sense).

Δεν θα έπρεπε να τίθεται θέμα περί επιστροφής της Καρυάτιδος έως ότου η ατμόσφαιρα της Αθήνας ... ξαναγίνει κατάλληλη να τη δεχθεί.
'There should be no discussion of having the Karyatide returned before the atmosphere of Athens is suited to receive her'.

'Αμα κατέβει κάτω ο σφουγγαράς, γιατρεύεται όσο να ξανανέβει.
When the sponge-fisher goes down (into the sea), he is cured until he comes up again (then the illness is felt anew - όσο να indicating duration: 'as long as...').

3) που relative

When που has an antecedent, it may reasonably be termed 'relative introductive':

η γυναίκα που   = the woman who/whome/whose
τώρα που   = now that
εκεί που   = where, while, whereas

When the antecedent is a nomen, a form of the more learned ο οποίος can usually be substituted, if necessary preceded by a preposition: την ώρα που έφτασα = την ώρα κατά την οποία έφτασα 'the moment I arrived'. But whereas που να belongs to basic system of the language, ο οποίος να is often regarded as a somewhat artificial way of expression.

The relative που combines with:

a) any non-past or past form (without να).

The perfective non-past, however, without θα, has a rather restricted use; it is used above all in collocations with a conditional meaning, referring to future or general cases, e.g. σε περίπτωση που' in case ...':

Στην περίπτωση που υποψιασθείτε ότι το φαγητό δεν είναι καλής ποιότητας ...
'In case you suspect that the food is not of good quality ...'

The following example comes from the work of Kazantzakis:
Χαρά στον άνθρωπο που δει τις περισσότερες θάλασσες.
'Happy is he who sees the largest number of seas'.

b) να + any form of non-past or past.

Που να is used to introduce 'generalizing' relative clauses and relative clauses expressing wish or curse. The generalizing use is by far the most frequent.

Generalizing relative που να

The relative clause introduced by που να, describes the antecedent as belonging to a class of things or persons. The antecedent is indefinite: 'somebody', 'any...', and the main clause is mostly negative or virtually negative (e.g. interrogative) or expresses some kind of need; the properties of the thing wanted are then described in the relative clause.

Τέτοιο 'such' can usually be supplied somewhere in the main clause without changing the meaning. This shows the affinity between result clauses (που = 'so that') and generalizing relative clauses (που = 'which'). Example:

1) Το φόρεμά της είναι τέτοιο που να τραβάει τους άντρες.
   'Her dress is of a kind as to attract men' (such a dress that it could..).

2) 'Ηθελε ένα φόρεμα που να τραβάει τους άντρες.
   'She wanted a dress that would attract men'.

In both sentences possible consequences are described. But the relative clause 2) contains a notion of purpose too: she wanted it in order to attract = για να.

Instead of που να, να alone can also be used. Που without να is equally possible after a negative main clause, but without the generalizing value of the να. Που δεν is, however, usually avoided if the main clause is negative. Thus, 'do you know any Greek who does not eat bread? ' is translated by:

a) Ξέρεις κανέναν 'Ελληνα που να μην τρώει ψωμί;
b) Ξέρεις κανέναν 'Ελληνα να μην τρώει ψωμί;
c) Ξέρεις κανέναν 'Ελληνα και να μην τρώει ψωμί;
d) Ξέρεις κανέναν 'Ελληνα που δεν τρώει ψωμί;

The answer could be:
      'Οχι, δεν ξέρω κανέναν που να μην τρώει ψωμί
or: δεν ξέρω κανέναν να μην τρώει ψωμί.
or: δεν ξέρω κανέναν και να μην τρώει ψωμί.
But hardly:
d) ?'Οχι, δεν ξέρω κανέναν που δεν τρώει ψωμί.

But if the answer is 'yes':
e) Ναι, ξέρω αρκετούς που δεν τρώνε ψωμί.
      'Yes, I know quite a few who do not eat bread'.

Use of the tenses.

Any non-past or past form can be used in a relative clause introduced by που να. When the relative clause refers to the past, non-past and past forms seem to be in rather free variation (compare (8) and (9) for the imperfective with (10)-(12) for the perfective). The modal value of Impf.Past can be seen in (6).

(1) Είδες εσύ ποτέ κάναν παπά που να πεινάει;
        'Have you ever seen a priest going hungry?'

(2) Δύσκολο να συναντήσεις Αρμένη στην Αίγυπτο που να μην ξέρει ελληνικά.
        'It is difficult to find an Armenian in Egypt who does not know Greek'.

(3) Γιατί δεν πήρα ένα δωμάτιο στην πρόσοψη που να βλέπει προς το λιμάνι;
        'Why didn't I take a room on the front with a view over the harbour?'

(4) Ο Χριστιανισμός χρειάζεται μια γλώσσα που να μεταδώσει το κήρυγμά του.
        'Christianity needs a language to transmit its message'.

(5) Η κυβέρνηση δεν άφησε φόρο που να μην τον επιβάλει.
        'The government imposed any tax it possibly could' (lit. 'the government did not leave any tax without imposing it').

(6) Ποτέ δεν υπήρχε έγκλημα που να είχε προαναγγελθεί περισσότερο.
        'Never was a crime so clearly announced in advance as this one'.

(7) Δεν ήθελα να κάνω τίποτα που να μην τό' κανε ένας δεσπότης. Αργότερα ... δεν ήθελα να κάνω τίποτα που το κάνουν οι δεσποτάδες.
        '[As a child] I did not want to do anything that a bishop would not do. Later on... I did not want to do anything that bishops do. (The change from past to non-past reflects the author's change from naive imagination to shocking reality).

(8) Δεν υπήρχε τίποτα στον κόσμο που να μην το ξέρει ο Τσιλιβήθρας.
        'There was nothing in the world Tsilivithras did not know'.

(9) Δεν είχε τραύματα πολλά που να χρειάζονταν ιδιαίτερη περιποίηση.
        'He didn't have many wounds that needed special care'.

(10) Έξι μήνες και δεν πέρασε μέρα που να μην τους διαβάσω το βιβλίο μου.
        'Six months – and not a single day passed without my reading aloud my book to them'.

(11) Θυμάσai καμiά φορά που να μη μαλώσαμε;
       'Do you remember any time when we did not quarrel?'

(12) Γνώρισες εσύ κανέναν που να πρόκοψε από το χαρτοπαίγνιο;
       'Have you ever met anybody who succeeded in life through card-playing?'

To show the variation of tenses in the relative clause referring to the past, we finally give a model phrase:

(13)   a) Δεν υπήρχε παιδί που να μην περνάει απ' το σπίτι μας.
         b) Δεν υπήρχε παιδί που να μην περνούσε απ' το σπίτι μας.
         c) Δεν υπήρχε παιδί που να μην περάσει απ' το σπίτι μας.
         d) Δεν υπήρχε παιδί που να μην πέρασε απ' το σπίτι μας.

         'There was not a child that did not come to our house'.

(13) a) and b) describe how things used to be (e.g. "in my childhood"), c) and d) refer to a single event ("that Christmas"). In both cases the semantic difference between the non-past and the corresponding past form is very slight.

Without που:

(14) Υπάρχει πατέρας να θέλει το κακό του παιδιού του;
       'Does any father want his own child's misfortune?'

After έχω an object followed by a να-clause (usually without που) corresponds to the English 'I have … to…' (see also p. 89):

Έχω κάτι να σε ρωτήσω.
       'I have something to ask you'.

Δεν είχες κανέναν να σε παρηγορήσει;
       'Did you not have anybody to comfort you?' (= που να σε παρηγορήσει or για να σε παρηγορήσει).

Relative clauses expressing wish or curse.

This peculiar type of relative clause follows the normal rules for wishes (see p. 74). In a number of stock phrases που has no antecedent.

Και μην αρωτάς τη στεναχώρια του καημένου του πατέρα μου, που ν' αγιάσουν τα κόκκαλά του.
       'And do not ask about my poor father's worries - holy be his bones'.

Δεκατρία αδέρφια εν ζωή ήτανε, που ζωή νά 'χουνε.
       'Thirteen brothers and sisters were alive - may they continue to be so'.

Κάποτε γύριζε, που να μη γύριζε.
> 'Sometimes he would come back - but would that he didn't!'

Όχι, όχι, που να πάρει ο διάολος!
> 'No, no, damn it!'

4) που να = even if

Εγώ δεν τον παίρνω άντρα μου που να με κάμει χρυσή.
> 'I shall not marry him even if he makes me golden'.

Κάθε Κυριακή θα πάει στην Εκκλησία με όλη του τη δύναμη που ο κόσμος να χαλάσει.
> 'Every Sunday he'll go to church, mustering all his strength, no matter what disaster may happen'.

Άμα μένεις εδώ, δεν ανεβαίνεις στην Ακρόπολη, που να σου δώσουνε τρία κατοστάρικα και να σε παρακαλέσει από πάνου κι η γκόμενα.
> 'If you live here, you will not walk up to the Acropolis, even if they should offer you 300 drachmas and your girlfriend also implores you'.

8.6. Indefinite relatives and introductives + να

όποιος	whoever[40]
όποτε	whenever
όπου	wherever
όπως	however, not matter how; as
όσος	as much as, (pl.) as many as
ό,τι	whatever.

The words listed above combine with any verbal non-past or past form, either directly, or with να, και να or και αν (κι αν) inserted.

a) without και να (or και αν)

The Perf.NP refers either to general or future cases, excluding the present moment. It seems not to be used in contexts of the past.

Όποιος δεν εργάζεται, δεν πρέπει και να τρώει.
> 'Whoever does not work, shall not eat either'.

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[40] Όποιος-όποιος is used as an indefinite pronoun in the sense of 'anyone' (= οποιοσδήποτε):
Το ρεμπέτικο δεν μπορεί να το γράψει όποιος-όποιος ή όποτε του καπνίσει.
> 'A rembetico song cannot be written by anyone nor at any time he takes it into his head'

Ό,τι θέλω, ό,τι θελήσω, εδώ είναι.
    'Anything I want (now) or shall want, is here'.

Γράφω ό,τι και όπως μου κατέβει.
    'I write whatever occurs to me and in whatever way I like'.

Όσο ζήσουμε εμείς, θα ζήσεις και συ.
    'As long as we live, you'll live too'.

Αυτό είναι προσβολή ... ή κομπλιμέντο, όπως το πάρετε.
    'That's an insult... or a compliment, according to how you take it'.

Όπου γύριζες, απάνταινες άντρες, παιδιά, γυναίκες.
    'Anywhere you turned, you would see men, children and women'.

Αλλοίμονο σε όποιον συνήθισε το καλό φαΐ.
    'Alas for everyone who has got used to good food'.

Έκαμες ό,τι μπόρεσες, παρά πάνω δεν μπορείς.
    'You did what you could, you cannot do more'.

Όποιος, όπου, and ό,τι preceded by και and followed by Perf.NP, are used elliptically to indicate that the speaker does not warrant or somebody mentioned in the preceding clause does not care for the consequences of the action: 'no matter who/where/what ...'

- or that the result (e.g. of a competition) is due to mere chance:

Ο Μανώλης πέταξε την πέτρα και όποιον πάρει ο Χάρος.
    'Manolis threw the stone without caring who might be killed'.

Θα στρωθούμε τώρα εμείς στη δουλειά και ό,τι προλάβουμε.
    'Now let's get on with the job and see what we can manage'.

Απλώστε ομπρός τα μπράτσα και όπου φτάσουν!
    'Stretch out your hands, go ahead, and reach what you can!'

Τρέχανε όλοι πίσω από το λεωφορείο και όποιος προλάβει.
    'They all ran after the bus, trying to catch it'.

Όπου φύγει φύγει is used of one who takes to his heels:

Μπαμ! ... και ο λαγός όπου φύγει φύγει.
    'Bang! and off ran the hare'.

b) with και να (or και αν) etc. inserted

The elements και αν (κι αν), και να or να alone, add a concessive sense to the clause: 'no matter who/what/when etc.' The phrase can be followed by

any non-past or past form, but does not combine with θα. Και αν is more frequent than και να, whereas να alone is mainly used in the stock phrases:

'Οπου να 'ναι
    1) 'Wherever it may be' 2) 'At any moment'.
'Ο,τι να 'ναι
    'Anything whatever'.

Although the original meaning must have been 'even if', the combinations και αν/και να are to be distinguished from collocations, where αν have kept its full sense of 'if': έστω και αν, ακόμη και αν, both meaning 'even if', εκτός και αν 'except if' etc.

Οι εξαιρέσεις αυτές, όσο αξιόλογες και να είναι, δεν μπορούν να μας απασχολήσουν εδώ.
    'These exceptions, however noteworthy they may be, cannot occupy us here'.

'Οσο και αν φαίνεται περίεργο, ...
    'However strange it may seem, ...'

Μη δεχτείς, όσα λεφτά κι αν σου δώσει.
    'Do not accept, no matter how much he is offering you'.

'Οπου κι αν πεθάνω, εδώ να με φέρετε να με θάψετε.
    'Wherever I die, bring me to this place to bury me'.

Παντού, όπου κι αν έβλεπες, ερείπια.
    'Wherever you looked, there were ruins.'

'Οπως και να είναι,...
    'In any case ...'

Σε όποιο χωριό κι αν μπαίναμε, ο Σατανάς είχε στήσει τα λημέρια του.
    'Whatever village we came to, the Devil had set up his hiding places'.

'Εκανε ό,τι και να του ζητούσαν.
    'He did whatever he was asked to'.

....δήποτε

The adding of -δήποτε to όποιος, όποτε, όπου, όπως, όσος, ό,τι emphasizes the indefinite sense:

	Not relative	*Relative*
οποιοσδήποτε	anyone	whoever, whatever, no matter who
οποτεδήποτε	at any time	whenever, no matter when
οπουδήποτε	anywhere	no matter where
οπωσδήποτε	in any case; definitely	–
οσοσδήποτε	of any quantity	no matter how much/many
οτιδήποτε	anything	whatever, no matter what
οιοσδήποτε	of any kind	–

of which οποιοσδήποτε, οπωσδήποτε and οτιδήποτε are by far the most frequent:

Η αγορά της Αθήνας ή οποιαδήποτε άλλη λαϊκή αγορά της Ευρώπης.
 'The Athenian marketplace or any other street market in Europe'.

Μπορεί κανείς να τον ρωτήσει οτιδήποτε.
 'One can ask him anything'.

When used as relatives, the indefinite meaning can even be enforced by adding και αν/και να:

Οποιαδήποτε προβλήματα συναντήσεις, να θυμάσαι ότι πάντα υπάρχει μια λύση.
 'Whatever problems you may encounter, remember there is always a solution'.

Οποιαδήποτε μέθοδο πληρωμής επιλέξουν, οι καταθέτες πρέπει να συμπληρώσουν το έντυπο ....
 'Whatever mode of payment the bank customers choose, they have to fill out the form ...'

Οτιδήποτε κι αν γίνει ...
 'Whatever may happen, ...'

8.7. Adverbial να-clauses

A number of να-clauses cannot be said to be governed by any element in the main clause: they are used as equivalent to other adverbial clauses. Some of them have already been dealt with:

να = για να
να = ώστε να

We shall here deal with να-clauses exchangeable with temporal or conditional clauses. Such να-clauses may refer to actual events, often corresponding to the English 'on ... ing', or to possible events, in which latter case it is often hard to distinguish between 'when' and 'if', (cf. German 'wenn').

Να ακούω έτσι τα αναφιλητά της, μου ερχότανε και μένα τα δάκρυα.
'On hearing her sobbing like that, tears were coming into my eyes too'.

Και να δίνει και να μη δίνει, ας είναι δοξασμένο τ' όνομά Του.
'Both if He gives and if He does not give - praised be His name'.

Ένα δόντι να σου σπάζουν, μασέλα να τσακίζεις.
'If they break one of your teeth, smash their jaws'.

Οι αδελφοί να τον δουν μαρμάρωσαν.
'On seeing him, the brothers were paralysed'.

Μία δραχμή να είχε στην τσέπη, τη θυσίαζε για τους άλλους.
'When (ever) he had a drachma in his pocket, he would spend it on the others'.

Να 'μουν Θεός, θα 'μπαζα και τα βόδια στην Παράδεισο μαζί με τους αγίους.
'If I were God, I would let the oxen too come into Paradise, together with the saints' (Καζαντζάκης).

Μιά να 'μπαινε στη φυλακή, δε θα 'βγαινε παρά νεκρός.
'Once he entered prison, he could only come out dead'.

Και να = **even if**

Concessive clauses are introduced by:

1. και αν (or κι αν) } = even if
   κι (...) να

2. αν και } = even though
   και ας (or κι αν)
   ας

3. μολονότι[41] } = in spite of the fact that.
   παρ' όλο που
   παρ' ότι

4. ενώ   = while

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[41] The three introductives are here written in accordance with the spelling recommended in Οδηγός της Νεοελληνικής γλώσσας, Πατάκη 1999, p 10-13. Frequent alternative spellings are παρόλο που and παρότι Cf. also παρόλ' αυτά = `παρ' όλα αυτά 'in spite of thet'

The first group has already been encountered in connection with the indefinite relative pronouns and introductives (see p. 115). Here as well as there, να alone is less frequent than the combined expressions. Και αν are always inseparable; και να are inseparable after όποιος etc. etc., but not when functioning as introductive (conjunction). The expressions of this group are used to introduce hypothetical concessive clauses: 'even if it is supposed that...' without indicating whether the action referred to, does, did or will occur or not. They are often preceded or followed by ακόμη/ακόμα 'even': ακόμα κι αν, και αν ακόμη, or by έστω (same sense): έστω και αν. In a few stock phrases να alone can be used in the same sense.

Those of group 3 definitely state that the action referred to does, did, or will occur, but 'in spite of that...'. Group 2 takes a middle position. It is used rather like group 3, but especially (και) ας may also refer to hypothetical cases, like group 1. Και ας is frequently used with a negated verb: και ας μη ... The use of ας often conveys a shade of indifference to the subordinate clause.

Below we show examples only from group 1 and 2, as the introductives of group 3 and 4 bear no relation to να-clauses.

Δεν ξυπνάει μόνος του, ακόμα κι αν βαράνε τα κανόνια του Λυκαβηττού.
'He does not wake up by himself even if the canons of Lykavittos are firing next to him'.

Τον κόσμο της παιδικής τους ηλικίας, τον λένε Παράδεισο, ακόμα κι αν ήταν κόλαση.
'They call the world of their childhood Paradise, even though it was Hell'.

Και δήμαρχο να με διορίσουνε, δε θα φύγω από κοντά σου.
'Even if I am appointed mayor, I shall not leave you'.

Ο αδελφός μου δεν το θυμόταν. "Αλλά και να το θυμόμουν, δεν θα το πίστευα" είπε.
My brother could not remember it. "But even if I could remember, he said, I wouldn't believe it'.

Και να το έλαβε το γράμμα σου, δεν θα σου απαντήσει.
'Even if he has received the letter, he will not answer you'.

Θα πάω, ο κόσμος να χαλάσει.
'I'll go in any case' ("even if the world goes under").

Αν και είχε χρόνια πολλά στον τόπο μας, διατηρούσε ακόμα την ηπειρωτική προφορά του.
'Although he had lived for years in our place, he still kept his epirotic pronunciation'.

Δεν τον έχω ξαναδεί έκτοτε, κι ας ζούμε στην ίδια πόλη.
'I have not seen him again since, though we are living in the same town'.

Τα άστρα λάμπουν, κι ας μην τα βλέπεις.
> 'The stars are shining even though you do not see them'.

Η πιο ορθή γλώσσα είναι η γλώσσα που μιλάει ο κόσμος και ας είναι γεμάτη λάθη.
> 'The most correct language is the language spoken by ordinary people even if it is full of mistakes'.

8.8. Historical and concluding remarks

Historically, the να-clause has developed from the ancient ἵνα introducing a purely final clause with the verb in the subjunctive. But already in the Koine, nominal clauses introduced by ἵνα appear, e.g. as object after verbs of command and will:
Πρῶτόν ἐστιν ἵνα κοιμηθῶ.
> 'The first thing is for me to sleep.'

Today the nominal functions have by far outweighed the adverbial ones. As we saw on p. 80, a να-clause can be the subject or object of the main clause. It can, moreover, be preceded by the definite article: το να ... and governed by a preposition: χωρίς να ...

It would even be possible to interpret most independent να-clauses (without any element governing the να) as elliptical subject or object clauses:

να φύγουμε!	= πρέπει να φύγουμε
'let us go!	'we must go'.
να φύγουμε;	= λες να φύγουμε;
'should we go?'	'do you think we should go?'
τι να κάνω;	= τι μπορώ να κάνω;
'what [can I] do?'	'what can I do?'

And for the non-verbal governing elements might be substituted verbal expressions:

ίσως να 'perhaps'	=	μπορεί να 'maybe'
μακάρι να 'would that'	=	εύχομαι να 'I wish that'

The same interpretation can be given to parenthetical expressions, such as:
να πεις = μπορείς να πεις   'you could say'.
να πούμε = μπορούμε να πούμε   'let us say'.

Να-clauses can, as stated above (p. 87) also be governed by nouns and adjectives:

Δεν είχε καμία υποχρέωση να αγαπήσει την πόλη αυτή.
        'She had no obligation whatsoever to love this city'.
Αυτή η σκέψη της έδινε τη δύναμη να αμυνθεί.
        'This thought gave her the strength to defend herself'.

Υπάρχει κίνδυνος να ...
        'There is a risk that ...'

More examples:
η ανάγκη να ...   'the need of ...'
η απόφαση να ...   'the decision to ...'
είμαι σε θέση να ...   'I am able to ...'
η τάση να ...   'the tendency to ...'

έτοιμος να ...   'ready to ...'
άξιος να ...   'worthy of ...'
κατάλληλος να ...   'fit/suited to ...'
πιθανόν να ...   '(it is) probable that', 'probably'

But some functions are undoubtedly better described as adverbial, the most obvious example being να = αν. Others are more difficult to classify, e.g.:

Πρήστηκαν τα πόδια μου να περπατώ.
        'My feet are swollen from walking' (= από το περπάτημα).

9. Indirect speech

When direct speech is to be transformed into indirect, the following changes occur:

1) main clauses must be changed into subordinate clauses
        (in English mostly 'that'-clauses),

2) if necessary, change of person (and rarely also of number),

3) occasionally, change of tense (and rarely also of aspect).

9.1. Main clauses

Non-interrogative main clauses are changed into subordinate 'that'-clauses introduced by:

- να, if the clause already contains a να or in any way expresses order or prohibition.

- ότι or πως in all other cases.

Examples (the direct speech cannot always be reconstructed unambiguously):

Λένε ότι δεν σερβίρουν μετά τις 12.00.
        'They say, that they do not serve any meals after midnight'.
        (Direct: Δεν σερβίρουμε ...).

Της είπα να παντρευτούμε.
        'I proposed her to marry' (lit. 'that we should marry').

Δεν είπαμε να κοιμηθούμε - να γαμηθούμε είπαμε.
        'We did not agree to sleep – we agreed that we should have sex'.

Αρνείται ότι είχε κάνει λάθος.
        'He denies that he had made a mistake'.
        (Direct: Δεν έκανα λάθος).

Αρνούνται να υπογράψουν.
        'They refuse to sign'.

Remarks:

1) after verbs meaning 'believe' or 'remember' να is, however, often used more or less synonymously with ότι/πως (see also p. 92).
This is especially the case when the verb is negated or emotionally marked:

a) Δεν πιστεύω ότι θα έρθουν
b) Δεν πιστεύω να έρθουν
    'I do not think they will come'.

Similar is the use of λέω να 'think/suppose that', especially in questions in the second person:

Λες να πουλάει το σπίτι του;
    'Do you think he is willing to sell his house?'

Λες να την εγκατέλειψε;
    'Do you think he has abandoned her?'

But also metaphorically:

Η κουβέντα δε λέει να σταματήσει.
    'The discussion seems to take no end'.

2) Πως and ότι are synonyms, but while πως belongs to rather informal speech, ότι is preferred in more formal contexts. ότι is preferred when the subordinate clause precedes the main clause, and always when preceded by the definite article:

'Οτι είσαι τίμιος άνθρωπος, δεν το αμφιβάλλω.
    'I don't doubt that you are an honest man'.

Η διαφορά οφείλεται στο ότι ...
    'The difference is due to the fact that ...'.

3) που is occasionally encountered after verbs of saying and knowing instead of ότι/πως. Today this use is rather dialectal. Kavafis uses it:

Είπε που χτύπησε σε τοίχον ή που έπεσε,
Μα πιθανόν η αιτία να 'ταν άλλη ...
    'He said that he had bumped into a wall or that he had fallen, but probably the reason was another'.

In current Greek που is regularly used after verbs of perception or sensation so that a distinction can be drawn between:

'Ακουσα ότι συζητούσαν.
    'I've heard that they were discussing' (indirect speech).

(Τους) άκουσα που συζητούσαν.
    'I heard them discuss' (perception).

Είδα πως μάλωναν.
    'I saw (= understood) that they quarrelled'.

(Τους) είδα που μάλωναν.
    'I saw them quarrel'.

9.2. Change of person (and number)

These changes are the same as in other languages. For example:

Direct speech:
"Λυπάμαι που αργήσατε, κύριε."
       ' I am sorry you are late, sir!'

Indirect:
Λέει πως λυπάται που άργησε ο κύριος.
       'He says that he is sorry the gentleman is late'.

9.3. Change of tense (and aspect)

The basic rule is that the indirect speech keeps the aspect, mood, and tense of the direct speech, with the exception of the imperative, which is changed into να + non-past in the same aspect. However, if the governing verb is itself in a past tense and refers to the past[42], an agreement of tenses may occur, as it must in English (he *said* that he *was* glad). The following changes may take place:

a)   all non-past forms become imperfective past
b)   Perfective Past and perfect become pluperfect
c)   Imperfective past may also be changed into pluperfect; this, however, is rare.

Direct speech: *Indirect speech with change of tense:*

Γράφω	Είπα ότι έγραφα	'I said I was writing'
Θα γράφω Θα γράψω } Θα έγραφα	Είπα ότι θα έγραφα	'I said I would write'
('Έγραφα) Έγραψα } Έχω γράψει	Είπα ότι είχα γράψει	'I said I had written'
Γράψε!	Σου είπα να γράψεις	'I told you to write'

---

[42] The Perf.Past often refers, as we have seen, to the present situation, more or less synonymous to a perfect· το λεωφορείο έφυγε/έχει φύγει 'the bus has just left'.

It should be stressed, however, that these transformations are never compulsory; as in Ancient Greek, it is always possible to keep the tense of the direct speech. Very often the change to past tense is carried out only partially, so that the main clause keeps the original tense, for example, while the subordinate is changed - or vice versa.

Examples without change of tense:

Του δήλωσε ότι θα του είναι αιώνια πιστή.
        'She declared to him that she would remain faithful for ever'.

Της εξήγησαν ότι η μυρωδιά οφείλεται στο σκόρδο.
        'They explained to her that the smell was caused by garlic'.

Του είπε πως θα τον περιμένει στην είσοδο.
        'She told him that she would wait for him at the entrance'.

Μου είπε ότι μπορώ να έρχομαι όταν και όποτε θέλω.
        'He told me that I could come whenever I wanted'.

Examples with change of tense:

Του είπα πως είμουν Έλληνας δημοσιογράφος.
        'I told him that I was a Greek journalist'.

Όλοι έλεγαν ότι έμοιαζε με τη μητέρα του.
        Everyone said that he looked like his mother'.

Ήξερε ότι θα φάει απ' τον πατέρα του γερό μπερντάχι όταν θα γύριζε στον κάμπο.
        'He knew that he would get a hard slap from his father when he came back to the plain.' - The author might as well have written: Ήξερε ότι θα έτρωγε απ' τον πατέρα του γερό μπερντάχι όταν θα γυρίσει στον κάμπο, corresponding to: θα φάω ... όταν (θα) γυρίσω.

9.4. Free indirect speech

Free indirect speech is an intermediate form of rendering of speech or thought. The words are given in the form of direct speech, but with change in person, tense etc. or introduced by ότι:

Ο ψυχίατρος είπε ότι όχι, μάλλον δεν είναι τρελός.
        'The psychiatrist said no, probably the man was not mad' (lit.: '... said that no, he is probably not mad').

9.5. Indirect questions

Indirect questions are introduced by the same interrogative word as direct questions: ποιος, πότε, γιατί, μήπως, etc. If there is no such word (in questions that may be answered by yes or no), then the introductive αν (or, but less frequently) εάν = 'if' is used. In this sense αν does not combine directly with Perf.NP (without θα, as is usual, when αν has a conditional sense).

'Ask him if he'll come', will be:
Ρώτησέ τον αν (or εάν) θα έρθει,
but not: *Ρώτησέ τον αν έρθει.

Indirect questions follow the same rules as indirect speech.
Examples without concordance:

Τον ρώτησα αν πιστεύει στο Θεό.
        'I asked him if he believed in God'.

Ρώτησε αν θα χορεύουν στη σκηνή ξεβράκωτες.
        'He asked if there would be stripped girls dancing on the stage'.

Τη ρώτησα αν ξέρει γαλλικά.
        'I asked her if she spoke French'.

In the last two cases, where the perfective refers to past time, agreement of tenses might have been effectuated: ... αν θα χόρευαν, ... αν ήξερε.

Examples of questions with concordance of tenses:

Η Ρένα δέχτηκε να τον ακολουθήσει, χωρίς να ρωτήσει καν τι θα της έδινε, πού θα πήγαινε, ή ποιους άλλους είχε στο θίασό του. Το μόνο που ρώτησε ήτανε αν θα παίζανε και έργα του Σαίξπηρ.
        'Rena (a young girl) accepted to go with him, without even asking how much he would pay her, where he intended to go, or whom else he had in his troupe. The only thing she asked was whether they would also be playing Shakespeare'.

The direct questions would be (if we suppose that she uses the polite plural form talking to her future employer):
τι θα μου δίνετε (για μισθό), πού θα πάτε (or: που θα πάμε), ποιους άλλους έχετε στο θίασό σας, θα παίζουμε και έργα του Σαίξπηρ;

10. Negatives

In Modern Greek, there are four negatives: δεν, μη, όχι, ούτε. Moreover the pronouns and adverbs καθόλου, κανείς, ποτέ, πουθενά, and τίποτε are used in negative expressions, either in combination with the negatives or elliptically (10.5). Finally, some Ancient Greek negatives are still in use (10.6). The negatives always precede the element to be negated. The choice of negative depends partly on the meaning, as explained below, partly on the grammatical nature of the negated element as shown by the following table:

Negated element:

	verb finite	verb infinite	noun/ adjective	other
δεν	+	–	–	–
μη	+	+	+	+
όχι	–	(+)	(+)	+
ούτε	+	+	+	+

Remarks:
1. the imperative is never negated (see p. 48 and 130).
2. δεν and όχι are in complementary distribution.

10.1. δεν

Δεν is only used before a finite verb. It is the normal objective sentence negative used in all kinds of clauses except:
a) after να and ας (ας δεν being a rare colloquial exception);
b) in prohibitions. The stock phrase δε βαριέσαι is however mostly felt like a negative exhortation = μη σε νοιάζει 'never mind about that.'

The full form of the word is δεν[43]. According to school grammar, it must be written δε – reflecting usual pronunciation – in front of non clusive consonants (β, γ, δ, ζ, θ, λ, μ, ν, ρ, σ, φ, χ). But the full pronunciation with the final -n is always possible, and many people practise the exclusive use of writing δεν. Few writers succeed in applying the above rule with consequence. Besides, the consequent use of δεν excludes any confusion with the 'learned' conjunction δε ('and', 'but'):

εγώ δε συμφωνώ:
      1) = εγώ δεν συμφωνώ   'I don't agree'
      2) = αλλά εγώ συμφωνώ   'but I agree'.

Note: In this book δεν is used everywhere, except in quotations and examples from literary works.

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[43] Also historically, the longer form is the original one, being a shortened form of the Ancient Greek ουδέν 'none, nothing'

Examples:

Η δισκογραφία δεν πουλάει άμα δεν έχει καλό υλικό.
        'Records don't sell, if the material is not good'.

Δεν ξέρεις. - Πώς δεν ξέρω;
        'You do not know. - How do I not know?' = 'Of course I do'.

Δεν ντρέπεσαι;
        'Are you not ashamed?' = 'Shame on you!'

Δεν μου λες ...
        'Tell me ...' (lit. don't you tell me ...)

Θέλεις δεν θέλεις.
        'Whether you want to or not'.

Δεν is also used in subordinate clauses introduced by μη (= μήπως):

Πολύ φοβάμαι μη δεν το καταφέρουν.
        'I'm very afraid they won't manage'.

10.2. μη

Μη is used:
1. as a sentence negative before a finite verb.
2. with the gerund.
3. negating a nomen.
4. elliptically: don't!

As in the case of δεν, two forms occur: μη and μην. But here the short form is the original one, μην being an analogy to δεν. The longer form μην is used only when negating a verb or introducing a whole clause (groups 1. and 2.), and only before vowels and stop consonants. In 3. and 4. μη is the only possible form, but the short form can be used quite correctly everywhere (e.g. μη έχοντας = μην έχοντας 'not having ...').

The distinction between sentences negated by δεν and those negated by μη is perhaps the closest Modern Greek comes to a distinction between indicative and subjunctive: δεν is the neutral sentence negative ("indicative"), whereas clauses negated by μη might be said to be in the subjunctive:

Δεν το κάνεις.   'You don't do it'.
Μην το κάνεις!   'Don't do it!'

10.2.1. μη as a sentence negative

a) Always after να and ας:

Ίσως να μην ήξερε πολλά.
       'Maybe he did not know very much'.

Εσείς να μη μιλάτε!
       'You must not talk'.

Ελπίζω να μη θυμώσετε.
       'I hope you won't get angry'.

Δεν μπορώ να μην πενθήσω τον πρόωρο θάνατο αυτής της θρυλικής γυναίκας.
       'I cannot help mourning over the early death of this legendary woman'.

Και σαν να μην έφταναν όλ' αυτά ...
       'As if all that was not enough ...'.

Ας μην ξεχνάμε ότι ...
       'Let us not forget that ...'

Όλοι ξέρουμε, κι ας μην το 'πε ο λοχαγός, πως εκεί πάμε.
       'We all know, even though the captain has not told us, that we are going over there'.

b) Introducing prohibitions and negative exhortations:

Μη σηκωθείς και μην κάνεις θόρυβο!
       'Don't get up and don't make any noise!'

Μην αρχίσω κι εγώ τα κλάματα!
       'Do not let me too start crying!'

For examples without a verb see below p. 133.

The imperative is never negated (p. 48), except in a few ancient stock phrases:

μη μου άπτου   'touch-me-not', 'squeamish'
μη με λησμόνει 'forget-me-not'.

c) In questions expressing doubt or astonishment:

Μη is here equivalent to μήπως, which is far more current today.

Μην ξέχασες τίποτε;
       'Maybe you have forgotten something?'

Also in indirect speech:

'Έψαξε τις τσέπες μη τυχόν κι ο άντρας της είχε ξεχάσει τίποτε.
　　　'She searched her husband's pockets, to see if he should have
　　　forgotten something'.

d) Introducing subordinate clauses

Μη is used in order to introduce subordinate clauses after expressions of fear
or anxiety, such as φοβάμαι, ανησυχώ, από φόβο, υπάρχει κίνδυνος.
Here, too, μη is equivalent to μήπως 'lest, by chance'. The perfective non-
past refers to future time; after μήπως, θα can be inserted, whereas μη θα
is usually rejected as incorrect. Moreover, after expressions of fear and
anxiety πως/ότι can also be used, with a more 'objective' meaning: 'that
actually...' We thus get:

	past	*future*
πολύ φοβάμαι	μην τον έδειραν	μην τον δείρουν
	μήπως τον έδειραν	μήπως (θα) τον δείρουν
	πως τον έδειραν	πως θα τον δείρουν

　　　'I am very afraid that they have thrashed him/will thrash him'.

Two examples of a negated object clause after verbs of fear:

πολύ φοβάμαι　　να μην το έμαθαν
　　　　　　　　πως δεν το έμαθαν
　　　　　　　　μήπως δεν το έμαθαν
　　　　　　　　μη δεν το έμαθαν

　　　'I'm very afraid that they haven't heard it'.

Examples with μη:

Φοβόταν μην την πληγώσει.
　　　'He was afraid that he would hurt her'.

Φοβόμουν μη δεν βρω θέση να καθίσω.
　　　'I was afraid that I would not find a seat'.

Σκιάχτηκε μην την βάλανε στην κάσα, στοχάζοντάς την πεθαμένη.
　　　'He became afraid that they had put her in the coffin, believing her
　　　dead'.

Κοίταξε γύρω του σα να φοβόταν μην ήταν κανείς και μας ακούσει.
　　　'He looked around him as if he were afraid that somebody could
　　　hear us'. (The Impf.Past refers to the situation, the Perf.NP to the
　　　possible future consequences of that person's presence).

After verbs of fear a να-clause can also be used corresponding to the English
infinitive: 'I'm afraid to...':

Φοβάσαι να χορεύεις;
    'Are you afraid to dance?'

After words expressing attention, care, caution, such as φροντιζω, κοιτάζω, προσέχω, με προφύλαξη, and particularly in imperative expressions, μη and μήπως are used as described above. Thus 'take care they don't discover you' will be:

κοίταξε καλά   μη σε πάρουν χαμπάρι
                    μήπως (θα) σε πάρουν χαμπάρι
                    (για) να μη σε πάρουν χαμπάρι.

Το νου σας μην ξυπνήσει και μας ξεφύγει!
    'Take care that he does not wake up and run away from us'.

Σβήσε το κερί μην το λιώσει άδικα ο αγέρας.
    'Put the candle out so that the wind does not melt it needlessly'.

Κατεβαίναμε με πολλή προφύλαξη μη γλιστρήσουμε και σπάσουμε τη στάμνα και μας δείρει ο μπαμπάς.
    'We went down with great caution, for fear that we might slip and break the jug and our father would beat us.'

10.2.2. μη + gerund

The gerund can only be negated by μη:

Ταξίδευε στο άγνωστο μην περιμένοντας τίποτα και μην πιστεύοντας σε τίποτα.
    'He was travelling into the unknown, without expecting anything or believing in anything.'

Θέλοντας και μη.
    'Willy-nilly'.

Historical note: this is the final result of a tendency in late Ancient Greek to negate all infinite verbal forms and most subordinate clauses with μη. As late as the 17th century, however, μη is found negating the gerund:

Δὲν ξεύροντας ὁ φίλος μου ποῦ νά' ναι κι' ἴντα ἐγίνη.
    '... not knowing where his friend could be, nor what had become of him' (Erotokritos, E 1178).
But in the same poem μη is also found e.g. B 1582: μὴ μπορώντας ...

10.2.3. μη negating a nomen

Μη is used before a nomen to express the contrary sense: 'non-', 'not-'. Alternatively the sense of a nomen can be negated by means of a prefix α(ν)- or από:

ορθογραφία 'orthography'	ανορθογραφία 'misspelling'
κακός 'evil'	άκακος 'harmless'
τσιγάρο 'cigarette'	ατσίγαρος (adj.) 'without a cigarette'
άνθρωπος 'human being'	απάνθρωπος (adj.) 'inhuman'.

But any substantive and adjective can be negated with μη:

Ένα μη επιστημονικό βιβλίο
　　'An unscientific book'.

Ο μη ειλικρινής
　　'An insincere person'.

Σύμφωνο μη επιθέσεως
　　'Non-aggression treaty'.

Ο μη σεβασμός των αποφάσεων του δικαστηρίου
　　'Failure to respect the decisions of the court'.

Η αρχή της μη χρήσης βίας
　　'The principle of non-violence'.

Το μη ύφος είναι απάνθρωπο.
　　'Lack of style is inhuman' (Seferis).

10.2.4. μη in elliptical prohibitions

Μη is used as a prohibitive negative, alone or followed by adverbs and the like:

Μη, ρε παιδιά, μη έτσι!
　　'No, don't, boys, not like that!'

Μη χειρότερα!
　　'God save us from worse things' (stock phrase).

Ως εδώ και μη παρέκει!
　　'That's the limit!' (stock phrase).

Finally a quotation from a short story by Αμαλία Μεγαπάνου (Τα μόρια, 1993). A young girl complains about her joyless life and the austerity of her parents:

.... δεν είχε διασκεδάσει ποτέ. Δεν είχε γελάσει με την καρδιά της. Δεν είχε ξεδώσει. Μη τούτο, μη κείνο, μη τ' άλλο. Δεν έχουμε λεφτά για τούτο, δεν έχουμε ώρα για κείνο, δεν έχουμε μυαλό για τ' άλλο. Μόνη της είχε ονοματίσει τη ζωή της μέχρι τώρα ένα Μηδέν. Από το μη και το δεν.

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'... she had never enjoyed herself. She hadn't laughed heartily. She had never had the time of her life. Don't do this, don't do that, don't do the other thing. We haven't got money for this, we haven't got time for that, we are not minded to do the other thing. She had herself called her life up to now for a "zero" (μη-δέν). Composed of μη and δεν.'

10.3. όχι

'Οχι is used either alone, meaning 'no', or at any place in a clause, except immediately before a finite verb (with pronouns etc.).

The following substitutions are possible:

a) όχι = δεν + finite verb
b) όχι = μη (+ finite verb)

Examples:

Με καταλαβαίνεις ή όχι; - 'Οχι!
   'Do you understand me or not? – No!' (= δεν καταλαβαίνω).

'Οχι πως ήταν άσχημος. Καλό παιδί, καλοφτιαγμένος... Μόνο που το ένα του πόδι ήταν ξύλινο.
   'Not that he was ugly. A nice boy, well built ...... It was only that one leg was wooden.'

Δεν τον θέλουμε. - Εντάξει, αλλά όχι και να μου τον σκοτώσετε ... όχι αμέσως κρεμάλα.
   'We do not want him! – All right, but do not go so far as to kill him, no gallows at once' (= μη φτάσετε στο σημείο να τον σκοτώσετε, μην τον κρεμάσετε).

| 'Οχι έτσι | 1. = δεν γίνεται έτσι | 'it's not possible that way'. |
| | 2. = μην κάνεις έτσι | 'don't do like that!' |

When όχι introduces the false part of a statement, the following correction is introduced by αλλά (or παρά) 'but'. Especially frequent is όχι μόνο 'not only':

Και κέρδισε όχι μόνο χρήματα, αλλά και πείρα.
   'And he gained not only money but also experience'.

'Οχι μόνο θησαυρό δε βρήκε, παρά έχασε και το σκούφο του.
   'Not only did he not find a treasure, he also lost his cap'.

10.4. ούτε

Ούτε, and its rarer synonym μήτε, may be termed a 'connective negative': it establishes a relation to another negative statement (word, phrase, or sentence), *either* explicitly, by repeated use:

ούτε ... ούτε (... ούτε ...)   'neither ... nor (... nor ...)',

or used singly, following another parallel negative statement:
δεν ... ούτε 'not ... nor',

or emphatically, implying some other negative statement, 'not even ...', not to speak of'. In this sense it is often followed by καν 'even':

Ούτε καν τον είδα.
 'I did not even get a glimpse of him'.

Εγώ δεν μπορώ να τον φανταστώ ούτε πρωθυπουργό ούτε εραστή ούτε καν σύζυγο.
 'I cannot imagine him neither as Prime Minister nor as a lover, not even as a husband'.

Αυτό ούτε να το σκεφτείς.
 'Don't even think of it'.

If the negated element is the *verb*, ούτε constitutes by itself a negative, preceding the verb:

Της φώναξε: Θα γυρίσω ... θα σου γράψω! - Ούτε γύρισε ούτε έγραψε.
 'He shouted to her: I'll come back ... I'll write to you. – He neither came back nor wrote'.

Ούτε ξέρω ούτε θέλω να μάθω ποιος το 'κανε.
 'I neither know nor do I want to know who did it'
 (= δεν ξέρω ούτε θέλω = δεν ξέρω και δεν θέλω).

But if the negated element is any other part of the sentence, then, if ούτε comes after the verb, another negative is required to negate the verb (δεν or μη); if ούτε precedes the verb, it is possible and even normal, but not necessary, to negate the verb too:

Ούτε following the verb:

Δεν έλεγε ούτε μία λέξη.
 'He did not say even one word'.

Μην το πεις ούτε στον εραστή σου.
 'Do not tell anyone, not even your lover'.

Δεν έκανε ούτε σφαγές ούτε τίποτα.
 'He committed neither carnage nor anything (bad)'.

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Ένιωθα σαν να μην ήμουν άξια ούτε για φτύσιμο.
  'I felt as if I were not even worthy of being spat on'.

Ούτε preceding the verb:

Ούτε μία στιγμή δεν σκέφτηκα να κοιτάξω το ρολόι μου.
  'Not even for a moment did I think of looking at my watch'.

Ούτε εγώ δεν τον είδα = Ούτε εγώ τον είδα.
  'I haven't seen him either'.

Ούτε οι Νορμανδοί ούτε οι Τουλουζιάνοι μπορούσανε να τους σταματήσουνε πια.
  'Neither the Normans nor the Toulousians could stop them any longer' (= δεν μπορούσανε).

Η γυναίκα σήκωσε τα μάτια της και τον κοίταξε. Μήτε λύπη μήτε παράπονο μήτε θυμός δεν ήτανε μέσα.
  'His wife raised her eyes and looked at him. There was neither grief nor complaint nor anger in them'.

Και ούτε κανένας από κείνους που τον ήξεραν μπόρεσε να καταλάβει τι έκρυβε μες στο μυαλό του.
  'And none of those who knew him could ever understand what he hid inside his head.'

Ο στρατός ξεκίνησε, αλλά ούτε που δόθηκε μάχη.
  'The army set out, but it did not even come to battle'.

Ούτε ψύλλος στον κόρφο σου.
  "Not even a flea on your bosom (would I like to be)" = 'I'm glad I'm not in your situation'.

10.5. κανείς, καθόλου, ποτέ, πουθενά, τίποτε

Besides the four genuine negatives, the following adverbs and pronouns are frequently met with in negative contexts:

	in context	*elliptical*
κανείς/κανένας	anybody	nobody
καθόλου	at all	not at all
ποτέ	ever	never
πουθενά	anywhere	nowhere
τίποτε/τίποτα	anything	nothing

The contextual sense is found in negative statements (including phrases introduced by χωρίς 'without'), questions, and conditional clauses; the 'elliptical' usually occurs only in answers with a negated verb understood.

Κανείς and τίποτε, however also have a broader use: κανείς, when unstressed, means 'some(one)', 'you' (German: man, French: on), hardly distinguishable from κάποιος, so that δεν καταλαβαίνει κανείς means either 'nobody understands' (with κανείς stressed) or: 'you cannot understand,' 'it is hard to understand' (with κανείς unstressed).

Τίποτε is also used as a rather unstressed adjective meaning 'some', mostly before plural substantives:

Δεν έχετε τίποτε γαλλικά βιβλία;
'Haven't you got any French books?'

Ποτέ can be followed by the unstressed personal pronoun in the genitive case: ποτέ μου/σου = (n)ever in my/your life.

Examples:

Κανένας δεν μπορεί να σε βοηθήσει.
'Nobody can help you'.

Ο Ισμαΐλ μπαρκάρησε χωρίς κανείς να τον ρωτήσει τίποτα.
'Ismail went to sea without anybody asking him anything'.

Αγόρασες κανένα ψάρι; - Όχι, κανένα.
'Did you buy any fish? – No, none.'

Καμία εβδομάδα χωρίς τον Οικονομικό.
'No week without the "Financial Times"' (advertisement for the magazine Οικονομικός Ταχυδρόμος).

Θέλετε τίποτε; - Τίποτε ευχαριστώ.
'Do you want anything? – Nothing, thanks.'

Η Μαρία δεν μίλησε καθόλου.
'Maria did not talk at all'.

Έχει κίνηση ο δρόμος; - Όχι, καθόλου.
'Is there much traffic on the road? - No, not at all.'

Δεν κλέβω ποτέ τις Τετάρτες, δεν σκοτώνω ποτέ τις Παρασκευές.
I never steal on Wednesdays, I never kill on Fridays'.

Ποτέ σου να μην το πεις σε κανέναν.
'You must never tell that to anybody'.

Ποτέ την Κυριακή.
'Never on Sundays'.

Ρούχα καθαρότερα παρά ποτέ.
'Clothes cleaner than ever' (advertisement).

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Εμένα μ' αρέσει εδώ και δεν πάω πουθενά.
    'I like it here and I am not going anywhere.'

Από πού ήρθαν; Μήπως από το πουθενά;
    'From where did they come? Perhaps from nowhere?'

10.6. ουδείς, ουδέποτε, ου(κ)

The Ancient Greek negatives ουδείς 'nobody', ουδέποτε 'never' and ου(κ) 'not' are used in some idiomatic expressions, whether of genuine Ancient Greek origin or not. Ουδείς is even used more freely, especially in legal language, because it constitutes a negative expression by itself, whereas κανείς is only unambiguously negative in combination with δεν or μη.

Ου φονεύσεις.
    'Thou shalt not kill'.

Ουκ ολίγες φορές.
    "Not few times" = 'Several times'.

Ουδείς αλάνθαστος.
    'Nobody is perfect'.

Εμείς ως λαός ουδεμία ευθύνη φέρουμε.
    'We as a people bear no responsibility'.

Ουδέν κακόν αμιγές καλού.
    "Nothing bad is completely without good" = 'Every cloud has a silver lining'.

Ουδέποτε υπήρξε μαθηματικός που να έκανε τη μεγάλη του ανακάλυψη μετά τα τριάντα του χρόνια.
    'There has never been a mathematician who made the great discovery of his life after his 30th year'.

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