

LESSON 24

Constructions with Verbs of Effort and Caution

24.1. Introduction

The most common construction with verbs of effort and caution is ὅπως with Future Indicative in both Primary and Past sequence. The ὅπως clause is a noun clause, Object of the verb of effort or caution. Besides the construction with Future Indicative, there are other constructions in Greek. These vary from one verb to another, and from one author to another. Moreover, manuscripts may vary between Future Indicative and Aorist Subjunctive in their reading of the same word. And editors have been inclined to prefer a Future Indicative reading or to emend Aorist Subjunctive to Future Indicative. The negative for all constructions is μή.

24.2. Primary Sequence

24.2.1. ὅπως with Future Indicative

εἰ δὲ Φοινίκων μᾶλλον βούλεσθε διαπειρᾶσθαι, **ποιέειν** χρεόν ἐστι ὑμέας, ὁκότερα ἂν δὴ τούτων ἔλησθε, **ὅκως** τὸ κατ' ὑμέας **ἔσται** ἢ τε Ἰωνίη καὶ ἡ Κύπρος ἐλευθέρη. (Hdt. 5.109.2.)

*But if you wish rather to try out the Phoenicians, it is right that you **should ensure**, whichever of these <options> you choose, **that** so far as depends on you, Ionia and Cyprus **will be** free.*

ὄρα δ' ὅπως **ᾠθήσομεν** τούσδε τοὺς ἐξ ἄστεως ἦκοντας ... (Ar.Ec. 300–301.)

*And **see to it that we push aside** these people who have come from town ...*

... **ὄρατε ὅπως μὴ** αἰσχίον καὶ ἀπορώτερον τῆ Πελοποννήσῳ **πράξομεν**. (Th. 1.82.5.)

... *take care that we do not create* <a situation> *more shameful and more difficult for the Peloponnese.*

Negative μή.

24.2.2. ὅπως with Subjunctive

... **ἐπιμελητέον** μὲν **ὅπως τρέφονται** οἱ ἵπποι, ὡς ἂν δύνωνται πόνοους ὑποφέρειν. (X.Eq.Mag. 1.3.)

... <it is> *necessary to take care that the horses are nourished, so that they can endure hard work.*

καὶ **ὄρα**, ὦ Κρίτων, ταῦτα καθομολογῶν, **ὅπως μὴ** παρὰ δόξαν **ὁμολογήῃς**. (Pl.Cri. 49 D.)

And see to it, Crito, in agreeing to this, that you do not agree contrary to <your real> opinion.

Negative μή.

24.2.3. μή with Subjunctive

ἀλλὰ πρῶτον **εὐλαβηθῶμέν** τι πάθος **μὴ** πάθωμεν.

τὸ ποῖον; ἦν δ' ἐγώ.

μὴ γενώμεθα, ἦ δ' ὅς, μισόλογοι, ὥσπερ οἱ μισάνθρωποι γιγνόμενοι. (Pl.Phd. 89 C.)

'But first let us take care that we do not suffer any calamity.'

'What sort <of calamity>?' said I.

'That we do not become', said he, 'haters of argument, just as those who become haters of mankind.'

24.2.4. εἰ with Indicative

Some verbs of effort and caution occasionally have an εἰ clause as Subject or Object. In the examples, in Primary and Past sequence the Indicative Mood is used. And the leading verb either is negated or is a negative compound.

καὶ οὐ τοσοῦτόν μοι μέλει, εἰ με δεῖ τὰ ὄντα ἀπολέσαι·
(Lys. 21.12.)

And it is not so great a concern to me, whether I must lose my possessions.

εἰ clause with Present Indicative is Subject of μέλει; lit. ‘Whether I must lose ... is not so great a concern ...’.

ὥστε μηκέτι ἀπόρει, ὦ Σώκρατες, εἴ τι τοῦμὸν κάλλος ἀνθρώπους
ὠφελήσει. (X.Smp. 4.16.)

And so no longer be at a loss, O Socrates, <about> whether my beauty will bring any benefit to people.

εἰ clause with Future Indicative is Object of ἀπόρει.

24.3. Past Sequence

24.3.1. ὅπως with Future Indicative

... καὶ παρεσκευάζοντο ὅπως κατὰ κορυφὴν ἐσβαλοῦσιν ἐς τὴν
κάτω Μακεδονίαν, ἧς ὁ Περδίκκας ἦρχε. (Th. 2.99.1.)

... and they were preparing to <go> over the ridge <and> invade lower Macedonia, of which Perdiccas was ruler.

ἐγὼ δέ, ἐπεῖτε παρέλαβον τὸν θρόνον τοῦτον, ἐφρόντιζον ὅπως
μὴ λείψομαι τῶν πρότερον γενομένων ἐν τιμῇ τῆδε μηδὲ ἐλάσσω
προσκτήσομαι δύναμιν Πέρσησι· (Hdt. 7.8.a.2.)

And I, after I had succeeded to this throne, was wondering how I should not be left behind those who had come before in this office, nor gain for the Persians less power [i.e. than they did].

Here, ὅπως with Future Indicative is represented by ‘how I should...’ in English. Negative μή and compound.

24.3.2. ὅπως with Subjunctive

δεδιώς τε ἔπρασεν ἔς τε τὴν Λακεδαίμονα πέμπων ὅπως πόλεμος γένηται αὐτοῖς πρὸς Πελοποννησίουσιν ... (Th. 1.57.4.)

And in trepidation he [= Perdiccas] was trying to bring it about, by sending <agents> to Sparta, that war would break out between them [= Athenians] and the Peloponnesians ...

(The second τε anticipates a following καί.)

ἐπεμελήθη δέ τις ἄλλωσιν πώποτε πλὴν Ἀγεσίλαοσιν, ἢ ὅπως φύλον τι ἀποστήσεται τοῦ Πέρσου ἢ ὅπως τὸ ἀποστὰν μὴ ἀπόληται ... (X.Ages.7.7.)

But did anyone except Agesilaus ever otherwise take care, either that some tribe should revolt from the Persian or that the <tribe> which rebelled should not perish ...?

Negative μή. (The first ὅπως clause uses Fut. Indic.)

24.3.3. ὅπως with Optative

In accordance with the more usual practice of sequence of Moods in subordinate constructions, ὅπως with Imperfect or Aorist Optative in Past sequence corresponds to Subjunctive of the same Aspects in Primary sequence. Likewise, ὅπως with Intensive ('Fut.') Optative corresponds to the Future Indicative of Primary sequence.

ἐπεμέλετο γὰρ καὶ τούτου ὁ Κῦρος, ὅπως ἀλίσκοντο παρ' ὧν ἔμελλε πεύσεσθαι τι. (X.Cyr. 6.2.9.)

For Cyrus used to be concerned for this also, that <prisoners> should be captured, from whom he was likely to learn something.

Imperfect Optative. The ὅπως clause is in apposition with τούτου.

πῶσ οὖν, ἐὰν μὴ βοηθῆτε οὕτω περιφανῶσ ἡμῖν ἀδικουμένοισιν, οὐ παρὰ τοὺσ ὄρκουσ ποιήσετε; καὶ ταῦτα ὧσ αὐτοῖσ ἐπεμελήθητε ὄρκων ὅπως πᾶσιν ὑμῖν πάντεσ ἡμεῖσ ὁμόσαιμεν; (X.HG 6.5.37.)

How, then, if you do not help us when we are so obviously being wronged, will you not act contrary to your oaths? And these, oaths which you yourselves took care that we all should swear to you all?

Aorist Optative.

ἐπεμελήθη δ', **ὅπως** οἱ στρατιῶται τοὺς πόνους **δυνήσονται** ὑποφέρειν· (X.Ages. 2.8.)

And he took care that the soldiers would be able to endure their labours.

Intentive ('Fut.') Optative.

ἐπεμέλετο δὲ καὶ τούτου ὁ Κῦρος **ὅπως μήποτε** ἀνίδρωτοι γενόμενοι ἐπὶ τὸ ἄριστον καὶ τὸ δεῖπνον **εἰσίοιεν**. (X.Cyr. 2.1.29.)

And Cyrus took care of this too, <namely> that they should never go in to lunch and dinner without having raised a sweat.

Negative μήποτε.

24.3.4. μή with Optative

οὐ μέντοι οὐδὲ ἀπέκλινε, **φυλαττόμενος μή δοκοίη** φεύγειν ... (X.An. 2.2.16.)

However, he was not turning aside either, being careful that he should not seem to be retreating ...

24.3.5. εἰ with Indicative

Corresponding to the examples in Primary sequence (§24.2.4), the following examples have the same structure in Past sequence.

οὐ γὰρ ἂν αὐτοῖς **ἔμελεν**, **εἴ** τις ἐν Πελοποννήσῳ τινὰς **ὠνεῖται** καὶ **διαφθείρει**, μὴ τοῦθ' ὑπολαμβάνουσιν· (D. 9.45.)

For it would not have been a concern to them, whether any one in the Peloponnese was bribing and corrupting any <persons>, if they had not been making this assumption.

εἰ clause with Present Indicative (Vivid) is Subject of ἔμελεν (in a Past potential Main clause); lit. 'Whether any one ... was bribing ... would not have been a concern ...'. ὑπολαμβάνουσιν is a Dative plural Participle with Conditional force, agreeing with αὐτοῖς.

οὕτω δ' ἠμέλησας, εἰ μὴδὲν ὁμολογούμενον ἐρεῖς, ὥστε φῆς μὲν αὐτὸν τὴν Αἰόλου καὶ τὴν Ὀρφέως ζηλώσαι δόξαν, ἀποφαίνεις δ' οὐδὲν τῶν αὐτῶν ἐκείνοις ἐπιτηδεύσαντα. (Isoc. 11.7.)

And you were so careless, <about> whether you were going to say nothing consistent, that you say that he emulated the reputation of Aeolus and Orpheus, but you show that he accomplished none of the same <achievements> as they <did>.

εἰ clause with Future Indicative is Object of ἠμέλησας, which is Past Aorist Indicative of negative compound ἀμελεῖν.

24.4. Variations of the Constructions in §§24.2 and 24.3

In some Attic authors (especially Aristophanes, Xenophon and Plato), ἄν may be added to ὅπως with Subjunctive.

Xenophon mostly uses the common constructions. But in addition, he sometimes uses ὡς (instead of ὅπως) with Future Indicative, Subjunctive and Optative, and ἄν may be added to ὡς with Subjunctive.

With verbs of planning and trying (especially φράζεσθαι, βουλεύειν, μερμηρίζειν and πειρᾶν), Homer uses ὅπως or ὡς with Subjunctive in Primary sequence and Optative (but sometimes Subj.) in Past sequence. κε(ν) (enclitic), equivalent to ἄν, is generally used with ὡς and Subjunctive, less often with ὅπως and Subjunctive.

24.5. Infinitive Constructions

Besides the constructions with Subordinate clauses, Infinitive phrases are sometimes used with verbs of effort and caution.

ἃ γάρ, ὅτε ἐσπένδοντο, διεπράττοντο, μὴ καίειν τὴν βασιλέως χώραν, νῦν αὐτοὶ καίουσιν ὡς ἄλλοτριάν. (X.An. 3.5.5.)

For as to what they were arranging when they were making the truce, <namely> not to burn the king's territory, now they themselves are burning <it>, as <if it were> someone else's.

The use of μή with the Infinitive after a verb of caution may reinforce the idea of caution rather than contradicting it. Compare the following two uses of εὐλαβεῖσθαι with Infinitive.

καλῶς ἔλεξεν, **εὐλαβουμένῳ πεσεῖν** ... (S.OT 616.)
*He spoke well, in the judgment of anyone **wary of falling** ...*

... ὀρχησάμενοι θεοῖσιν **εὐλαβώμεθα**
 τὸ λοιπὸν αὐτίς **μή ἑξαμαρτάνειν** ἔτι. (Ar.Lys. 1276–1277.)

... *leading the dance in honour of the gods **let us take care***
***not to offend** ever again in future.*

24.6. Omission of Main Clause

Expressions of effort or caution may be made by means of a ὅπως clause without any Main clause. However, an imperatival or hortatory verb is always implied as introducing the ὅπως clause: ‘<See to it> that ...’, ‘<Take care> that ... (not) ...’. Consequently, such ὅπως clauses are always in Primary sequence. Positive clauses use ὅπως with Future Indicative. Negative clauses use ὅπως μή with Future Indicative or with Subjunctive.

ἀλλὰ μᾶλλον **ὄκως** λόγον **δώσεις** τῶν μετεχείρισας χρημάτων.
 (Hdt. 3.142.5.)

*But rather <make sure> **that you give** an account of the money which you managed.*

ὄκως (for Attic ὅπως) with Future Indicative τῶν (Ionic) = ὦν (Attic).

ὅπως τοίνυν ταῦτα **μηδεῖς** ἀνθρώπων **πέυσεται**. (Lys. 1.21.)
*So <make sure> **that no one** among men **learns about this**.*

ὅπως ... μηδεῖς with Future Indicative.

καὶ **ὅπως** γε **μηδέ** τὸ χωρίον ἠδέως **ὀρῶσιν** ἔνθα κατέκανον ἡμῶν
 τοὺς συμμάχους. (X.Cyr. 5.4.21.)

*And <let us make> quite <sure> **that they will not even see** with pleasure
 the place where they killed our allies.*

ὅπως μηδέ with Imperfect Subjunctive.

References

Goodwin (1889), *Syntax of the moods and tenses of the Greek verb*, §§130, 271–278, 339–354, 361.

Smyth (1956), *Greek grammar*, §§2209–2217, 2220.

EXERCISE 24

Translate the following passages.

- ... χρημάτων μὲν οὐκ αἰσχύνῃ ἐπιμελούμενος ὅπως σοι ἔσται ὡς πλείστα, καὶ δόξης καὶ τιμῆς, φρονήσεως δὲ καὶ ἀληθείας καὶ τῆς ψυχῆς ὅπως ὡς βελτίστη ἔσται οὐκ ἐπιμελῆ οὐδὲ φροντίζεις;

χρήματα, -ων, τά	<i>money</i>
αἰσχύνεσθαι (Mid. and Pass.)	<i>to be ashamed (of) (+ Partc.)</i>
ἐπιμελούμενος	+ Gen. χρημάτων, δόξης, τιμῆς.
πλείστα (neut. pl.)	Refers to χρημάτων.
ἐπιμελῆ	+ Gen. φρονήσεως, ἀληθείας, τῆς ψυχῆς.

- ... ἀλλὰ τοῦτ' ἐφιλοσοφεῖ καὶ τοῦτ' ἔπραττειν, ὅπως μηδεμία τῶν πόλεων αὐτὸν φοβήσεται τῶν Ἑλληνίδων, ἀλλὰ πᾶσαι θαρρήσουσι πλὴν τῶν ἀδικουσῶν.

φιλοσοφεῖν	<i>to pursue (an aim or activity)</i>
πράττειν	<i>to strive for (+ Acc.)</i>
θαρρεῖν	<i>to be confident</i>

- περὶ μέντοι ἡγεμονίας αὐτόθεν διεπράττοντο ὅπως ἐν τῇ ἑαυτῶν ἕκαστοι ἡγήσονται.

μέντοι	<i>moreover (less common than the adversative meaning)</i>
αὐτόθεν	<i>immediately</i>
τῇ	Understand γῆ.

4. εὐλαβοῦ δὲ μὴ ἴκφύγη σε·

(ἔ)κφύγη	The Subject is masc.
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5. φυλάξομαι δὲ τάσδε μεμνήσθαι σέθεν
κεδνᾶς ἐφετμάς·

κεδνός, -ή, -όν	<i>wise</i>
ἐφετμή, -ῆς, ἡ	<i>command</i>

6. οὐδ' ὄμμ' ἔδειξεν, ἀλλ' ἐπὶ σκήπτροις ἔχων
τὴν ἐλπίδ' ἠύλαβεῖτο μὴ σῶζειν φίλους.

ὄμμα, -ατος, τό	<i>face</i>
σκήπτρον, -ου, τό	<i>staff; sceptre; (often in pl., as here) royal power</i>
φίλος, -ου, ὁ	<i>family member</i>

Orestes speaks ironically to Electra about Menelaus.

7. Πενθεὺς δ' ὅπως μὴ πένθος εἰσοίσει δόμοις
τοῖς σοῖσι, Κάδμε·

Πενθεὺς	Belongs within ὅπως clause.
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8. ... those who are going to be capable of this ... must see to it that
they have a more sensible attitude than the others.

<i>to be capable of</i>	δύνασθαι (+ Acc.)
<i>to see to it</i>	σκοπεῖν
<i>to have an attitude</i>	διακεῖσθαι (Mid.; + adv.)
<i>sensible</i>	φρόνιμος, (-η,) -ον

9. And these [men], by canvassing each of the citizens, were trying
to ensure that they would make the city revolt from the Athenians.

<i>to canvass</i>	μετιέναι
<i>to try to ensure</i>	πράσσειν (Use Past Imperf. Indic.)
<i>to make ... revolt</i>	ἀφιστάναι

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