SYNTAX OF THE VERB

594. The Syntax of the Verb relates chiefly to the use of the Moods (which express the manner in which the action is conceived) and the Tenses (which express the time of the action). The uses of Mood and Tense frequently cross each other.

MOODS — եղանակ

INDICATIVE MOOD — պատմական եղանակ

595. The Indicative is the Mood of direct assertions or questions:

- Դուստրեր կունեն բազմազան ամիսներ իրենց տարին / in a year there are four seasons
- Երբ ասեմ ծովին ծածկեր ծածկեր / in spring the trees blossom
- Երբ ձեզ անցման մեջ եկան կանանց / in autumn the leaves fall
- Դուք ուսումն էքսս զանգ / do you study or play?

SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD — պատմական եղանակ

596. The Subjunctive in general expresses the verbal idea with some modification such as an Exhortation or a Command, a Concession or a Wish, a Question or a Doubt, a Possibility (contingency), or a Condition.

Hortatory Subjunctive

597. The Hortatory Subjunctive (Present) is used in the First and Third Person Singular and Plural to express an exhortation or a command. The Negative (Prohibitive) Particle is not չեք but չեք;
it can be prefixed to the Second Person also. The Hortatory is regularly preceded by the Conjunction ֶֽוָּ, which expresses concession also:

let us disarm the foe!

let them shun excess and cherish modesty

let them come and see

never mind if he is not rich, if only he be honest

let it be as you say

Note: ֶֽוָּ do not go (Imperative)

do not go (Subjunctive)

598. A negative question in the Subjunctive is equivalent to an exhortation:

why don’t you go?

why didn’t you speak?

Note: The Subjunctive Imperfect stands here for the Indicative Aorist:

599. Of two Verbs in the Subjunctive, only the first takes the particle ֹֽוָּ:

(for: ֶֽוָּ) do not go and stay there

that he might not fall and faint

Optative

600. The Subjunctive is used as Optative to express a Wish; it is often preceded by the Particles ֹֽוָּ, ֶֽוָּ, ֹֽוָּ. The Present Tense denotes the wish as possible, the Imperfect as unaccomplished in Present Time, the Pluperfect as unaccomplished in Past Time. The negative is ֹֽוָּ:

may he die rather than sin

Stay well! Fare well!

may God avert this omen [come]

I wish he comes (it is possible that he)

I wish he came (he did not, but he may still)
I wish he had come (he did and he will not)
I wish I had not written this letter (but I did).

Questions in Subjunctive
(cf. 598)

601. The Subjunctive is used in questions implying:
Doubt, Indignation, or an Impossibility. The negative is ἐ流动性.
The Question mark may alternate with Exclamation point:
what am I to do, whither shall I turn?
shall I greet him?
what are we to do with this man? what fit penalty can we devise?
to renounce my faith, to betray my country!
to accept your proposal — should I sacrifice my freedom!

Potential Subjunctive

602. The Subjunctive is Potential when used with ἐ流动性 (perhaps), to suggest an action as possible or conceivable. But with ἐ流动性 the Indicative is also common:
perhaps you may ask what's all about (what is this noise)?
he may perhaps not come if he guesses that he'll be punished.

Conditional Subjunctive

603. The Subjunctive is used to express Conditions. A complete Conditional Sentence consists of two Clauses.
604. The Clause containing the Condition (the Dependent Clause), is regularly introduced by the Conditional Particles ἐ流动性, ἐ流动性 ἐ流动性 ἐ流动性 ἐ流动性 ἐ流动性 ἐ流动性 followed by the Verb in the Subjunctive Mood. But the Indicative is also used.
605. The Clause containing the Conclusion (the Main Clause) has the Verb in the Indicative or Conditional (Imperfect Future).

606. The use of Moods in the Dependent Clause is very loose in Armenian. It depends upon the view of the speaker who may consider the Condition as a pure possibility and use the Subjunctive, or as more than possible, almost as a fact, and prefer the Indicative.

Subj. երեու ապահովել (or երեու զավակեցել) it they wish (it is likely they will) to lieve, we shall not hinder them.

Ind. երեու իրավունք հասգվել... (it is almost a fact, they are already lieving)

Subj. երեու տերու դու երեու, երեու զավակեցել (or երեու զավակեցել) երեու if he loved me, he would help me (the condition is doubtful)

Ind. երեու երեու դու դու... (the speaker is convinced of the friend’s love, and cannot understand his short coming).

IMPERATIVE MOOD — ԿԱՐՏԵՍՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ

607. The Imperative Mood is used for Commands and Entreaties:

երեու պահեստ երեու, պահեստ նկատել, պահեստ պահեստել երեու երեու, պահեստ նկատել երեու երեու երեու take care of yourselves, defend your honor, preserve your faith!

երեու երեու երեու երեու երեու երեու երեու երեու երեու երեու state my friend, your opinion frankly!

երեու երեու երեու երեու երեու երեու երեու երեու երեու երեու work, do not speak!

608. The Imperative of երեու followed by the Conjunction եր (երեու եր, երեու եր) and the Subjunctive of the Verb is used instead of the Imperative, especially in colloquial language:

երեու եր երեու երեու երեու երեու երեու երեու see that you come on time

երեու եր երեու երեու երեու երեու երեու երեու see that you do not get sick

Other substitutes for Imperative see 597.
609. The Infinitive is properly a Noun denoting the action of the Verb abstractly. It differs, however, from other Abstract Nouns in the following points:

a) it admits the distinction of Tense:  

- to make — to have made;

b) it is modified by Adverbs, not by Adjectives;

c) it governs the same Case as the finite Verb;

d) it denotes Purpose and Cause, specially in the Dative Case;

e) it can be used as an Adjective.

Infinitive as Noun

610. The Infinitive can be used like a Noun as Subject, Direct and Indirect Object, with or without the Article:

Nom. — Subj.: it is a fine thing to know one’s self

Acc. — Dir. Obj.: do not believe that to enjoy is to be happy

Genitive: the time to learn is over

Dative: I wait for the coming of the mailman

Ablative: he is tired of speaking

Instrum.: he lived commanding, he died obeying.

Infinitive as Verb

611. The Infinitive as Verb is Complemental to finite Verbs.

Infinitive with Impersonal Verbs

612. The Complementary Infinitive is used with Impersonal Verbs and Expressions, such as it is becoming to consider
Infinitive as Complement of Verbs

613. The Infinitive in these cases can be substituted by \( np + \) Subjunctive: \( s\text{ Infinitive} + np \text{ Infinitive} \)

Infinitive in Accusative

614. Verbs which imply another action of the same Subject to complete their meaning take the Infinitive.

Such are Verbs denoting to be able, dare, undertake, remember, forget, be accustomed, begin, continue, cease, hesitate, learn, know how, fear, and the like. The Infinitive with these Verbs can be in the Accusative (\( = \)Nominative) or Dative.

Infinitive in Accusative

615. The Verbs နည်း၊ ကြည့်၊ ကြည့်၊ တည်ဆောင် take the Infinitive in the Accusative:

နည်း ကြည့် ကြည့် တည်ဆောင် this I want to say, to do
ကြည့် ကြည့် တည်ဆောင် I can affirm
[to speak
ကြည့် ကြည့် တည်ဆောင် I know how to fight, and how
တည်ဆောင် ကြည့် တည်ဆောင် he made as if he did not know me

Note 1. Avoid the vulgar forms: အနောက် အနောက် for အနောက် အနောက် I could not see.

Note 2. ကြည့် ကြည့် ကြည့် with Subjunctive clause because the action is not of the same Subject — I want you to do ...

Infinitive in Dative

616. The Verbs နည်း၊ ကြည့်၊ ကြည့်၊ တည်ဆောင် take the Infinitive in the Dative Case:

နည်း ကြည့် ကြည့် တည်ဆောင် I forgot to tell
ကြည့် ကြည့် တည်ဆောင် do you fear to come into the open
တည်ဆောင် ကြည့် ကြည့် တည်ဆောင် he was ashamed to praise him to his face
တည်ဆောင် ကြည့် ကြည့် တည်ဆောင် I hesitate to remind him of his debt
617. The Verbs թուղել, ցանվորել, ցտրել, ուղ- ճառել take the Infinitive in Dative if they follow, in Accusative if they precede the Infinitive:

- բերրելություն or բերք
- ցնալություն or ցնաք
- ցտելություն or ցտեք

he began to write
they do not dare to protest
you dare to refuse?
I was forced to yield

Infinitive of Cause

618. The Dative of the Infinitive is used with առաջադիմիլ, առաջադիմում, առաջադիմը and the like to denote the cause of those emotions:

- առաջադիմություն ուխտ է էլ էստում I was sad for not finding you there
- առաջադիմություն ուխտ է էստում փառ I was glad for having given you this help
- ցանքություն պուտաբերել, պուտաբերման փառ he gets angry because I speak, he gets upset because I remain silent

Infinitive of Purpose

619. The Dative of the Infinitive denotes Purpose with Verbs of motion and with Adjectives governing the Dative (507, 508):

- ցանքություն ուխտ է էստում փառ let us go to see
- ցանքություն ուխտ է էստում փառ we did not come to ruin
- ցանքություն ուխտ է էստում փառ we are ready to do that
- ցանքություն ուխտ է էստում փառ the are used to being conquered
- ցանքություն ուխտ է էստում փառ are you willing to follow me?

620. It is very common to use ցանք with the Infinitive Dative to denote Purpose or Cause. But the Postposition can be omitted without obscuring the meaning:
I have come to see you because he loves me.

**Infinitive as Adjective**

621. The Dative of the Infinitive used with a Substantive qualifies it like an Adjective:

- **eat**able bread
- **drin**kable water (drinking water)
- something **worth** seeing
- fishing device (instrument)
- a way leading to the mountains

622. This Infinitive 1) remains always in the Singular, 2) does not take the Article, and 3) regularly precedes the Substantive.

**Infinitive in Ablative**

623. The Verbs which govern the Ablative Case (521) take the Infinitive also in Ablative. Such are **cease** to work

- **tired** of standing
- we are getting **tired** of singing
- (or **ashamed** of begging
- **afraid** of being bankrupt
- they shy from dancing

**Infinitive in Instrumental**

624. The Instrumental of the Infinitive expresses the cause, the motive of another action:

- because I saw the danger, I retreated — or seeing the danger...
- as I was unable to conquer, I was made slave — or being unable...
625. The number of possible Tenses is very great. A scheme of thirty or more Tenses might be devised. But no language finds occasion for more than a small part of these. The most obvious distinctions in Armenian are given 173—174. The use of those Tenses will be studied in 626—648.

TENSES OF THE INDICATIVE

PRESENT — Եղել

626. The Present Tense denotes an action or state:
1) as now taking place, or existing, and so
2) as incomplete in present time, or
3) as indefinite, referring to no particular time, denoting a general truth:

you understand it, you see it, and yet you are silent

I give you my seat and I go away

flattery gains friends, truth, enemies

the lazy man decays, the active man flourishes.

627. The Present is regularly used in quoting writers whose works are extant:

Buzant narrates
In Xorenači's History, Haik speak thus.

Historical Present

628. Ind. Present is used for the Aorist (Historical Perfect) in lively narrative or in a summary enumeration of past events:
the news is spread, the legate arrives, heads for the royal palace, presents himself to Tigranes, and speaks thus

Aršakavan grows, the crowds become bigger, crimes multiply, discontent spreads all over the country.

Present for Future

629. Ind. Present may take the place of the Future to express certainty:

soon, you will be married

we shall arrive tomorrow, and leave the day after

will you help me?

Present for Imperative

630. In colloquial language, Ind. Present is used for the Imperative, when the execution of the command is certain:

go to the square, inquire about what happened, and bring detailed information.

IMPERFECT — 

631. Ind. Imperfect denotes an action or a state as continued or repeated, hence incomplete, in past time. It is a descriptive Tense, it describes conditions, habits, customs, even actions conceived in progress, unlike the Aorist which presents an action or a state as absolutely completed at a definite time in the past (636):

there were only two roads to the castle
so lived (habitually) Narekaci; he prayed from the bottom of his heart they were afraid to appear before Tigran (the Imperfect describes the state) they feared, they did not appear) before him (the Aorist merely states the accomplished fact he used to put on his crown, to girdle his sword. (Habits, customs described by Imp.) he put on... he girdled (Aorist relates the facts) day after day I used to arise, close my house, go to the market (= habits) that day, I arose, closed the door, went to the market (= facts)

Note: The English is less exact in distinguishing these two modes of statement.

Imperfect for Present

632. Ind. Imperfect may be used instead of the Present for statements in polite form:

I wish you would not spread this sad news

I ask you to come to lessons on time

I would think you’re wrong

633. Instead of Interrogative Present or the Imperative, the Imperfect of the Subjunctive is used in asking some favor:

do me a favor and explain this rule to me

will you do me a favor and explain this rule to me?

do me a favor...
AORIST — հաստատություն

634. The Aorist denotes an action completed in the presence of the narrator. It corresponds to the English Preterite:

- եկե, զուգա, զինգա, զարդարելու ան ընդունում.
  he came, spoke, fought, was defeated, and went away (The narrator was there)
- ելք է թարգել ելք.
  he left yesterday (I saw him leaving)
- ելք է թարգել ելք ելք.
  he has left yesterday (I have been told ...)

635. The Aorist is the Historical Tense of Armenian. It presents actions (periods) as having taken place at a definite point of past time and as being absolutely completed (631).

- Տիգրանս հայկական է նստած, պավս տես-
  Tigranes the Great founded the Armenian Empire, but he also witnessed its fall
- Մեծ է աստղ ի տնտես երբ երբ տարածմա-
  MXIT’AR refined and distinguished the ideas of Religion and Nation; his disciples continued his great work.

FUTURE — պուտություն

636. The Future denotes an action or state that will occur hereafter. The Particle պուտություն is not repeated before two or more Verbs: it stands before the first only.

- պուտություն ենք տեսն և տեսն և տեսն
  you will go and see
- պուտություն ենք տեսն և տեսն
  he will rob, kill, and destroy.

637. The Future may have the force of an Imperative:

- պուտություն ենք տեսն և տեսն
  pay your debt, or else I appeal to the law
- պուտություն ենք տեսն և տես
  learn your lesson, if you do not want to be punished.

638. The Future Perfect denotes an action as completed in future time. Armenian like English is not exact in distinguishing
between mere future action and an action completed in the future. Hence the Simple Future is used instead of the Future Perfect:

when he arrives I shall finish (have finished) my work.

639. The Future Perfect is used to express opinion, guessing:

he may have arrived by now
he may have been very much surprised
where is your brother? He may be home.

CONDITIONAL — ԶԵՏՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ

640. To Future belongs the Conditional as its Imperfect modality. It is used in the Main Clause of a Conditional Sentence. The First Conditional refers to present, the Second Conditional to past time. They are often substituted by Ind. Imperf. and Pluperfect. See 647.

PERFECT AND PLUPERFECT — ՄԻԱՑՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ ՈՒ ՊԵՏՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ

641. Armenian Ind. Perfect and Pluperfect correspond to the English:

a) The Perfect denotes an action as now completed:

I have completed my task, I ask for my wages
I have spoken that word, and I do not take it back

b) The Pluperfect is used to denote an action or state completed in past time; or an action prior to another:

we have reached the place which our men had purchased
he has been defeated because he had thought himself strong.

642. The Auxiliary Verb is not repeated when two or more Verbs follow each other:

762 n. տղամվում եղ or 762 եղ տղամվում եղ եղ եղ

he has come and told the story

643. The Aorist is very often used instead of the Perfect, especially in colloquial language. But it should not be used for statements which the speaker owes to others. Do not say: <<ըստ-համար ժամանց>> if you have not been present at his departure. You should say: ըստհամար ժամանք (or ժամանք) եղ my friend has left, when others have told you about his departure. (See 634). A similar distinction is sometimes made between the forms of the Perfect: ժամանք եղ and ժամանք եղ (265—267), the form in -եղ referring to personal knowledge, the form in -եղ to an information received from others.

SEQUENCE OF TENSES

644. There are no rigid rules in Armenian for the Sequence of Tenses in Main and Dependent Clauses. It is preferable to put the Verb of the Dependent Clause in the Imperfect Subjunctive, when the Verb of the Main Clause is Imperfect, or Pluperfect; and to put the Dependent Verb in the Present Subjunctive when the Main Verb is Present, Perfect, or Future. But the Present Subjunctive can be always used. Aorist may be followed either by Present or Imperfect.

Imperfect:

եմայցեբ եղ եղ եղ եղ I was asking them to come

եմայցեբ եղ եղ եղ եղ I had asked them to come

եմայցեբ եղ եղ եղ եղ I asked them to come

Present:

եմայցեբ եղ եղ եղ եղ I am asking them to come

եմայցեբ եղ եղ եղ եղ I have asked them to come

եմայցեբ եղ եղ եղ եղ I shall ask them to come

եմայցեբ եղ եղ եղ եղ I asked them to come

200
645. The Sequence of Tenses should be observed with more exactitude in Sentences where the Main Clause depends upon a Condition expressed in the Dependent Clause (604–607).

646. If the Condition is doubtful but not contrary to fact, hence its falsity is not implied:
Ind. Present, Perfect, and Future are used in the Main Clause;
Subj. Present or Future, in the Dependent Clause (κρατ...).
Present of Subjunctive may refer to Present and Future alike.

he will rid of the sickness...  if he falls asleep
we will be healed...        if you wish (will wish)
we are save...             if it dawns

647. If the condition is contrary to fact, hence its falsity is implied:
Indicative Imperfect, Pluperfect, or Imperfect Future (= Conditional) are used in the Main Clause;
Subjunctive Imperfect or Pluperfect in the Dependent Clause: Imperfect referring to present, Pluperfect to past.

you would admire (have admired) his speech, if you (had) heard him
I would be (have been) rich, if you were (had been) rich

648. When Aorist is used, it must be used in both Clauses:
of the Conditional Sentence.

you did hurt me...  if you did harm him.
649. The Present Participle is used as an Attributive or Predicate Adjective. It can take the Article and be used as a Noun also (257—263):

- fighting soldiers
- the mountaineers are brave
- we expect our livelihood from buyers

650. The Present Participle as Verb is equivalent to a Relative Clause:

- ηοντ έν (who) works

Note the difference between

- (Genitive) ηοντα (Noun) the builder of this house,
- (Accusative) ηοντα (Verb) (he) who is building (has built) this house.

English Present Partciple compared with the Armenian

651. The use of the Present Participle is more extensive in English than in Armenian. In many instances the Armenian must make use of other forms and words in order to express the English Present Participle. The Examples show the differences:

- English Present Participle:
  - I am, was going
  - a biting cold
  - the fighting ones
  - his taking a stroll
  - greeting, blessing
  - reading
  - writing
  - a time for paying bills

- Armenian:
  - հիմային, էկումանեն
  - ես մեկ ճանճ
  - հետևի մեկը
  - հետևում է
d պատմում — or գրում-
  բարենպակ
  կար
  կիկ
  ճանճ
  Ճանճ
  Ճանճ

by losing your situation
instead of using his learning

I cannot help remarking
I found him sitting

not with standing

concerning
considering
during
excepting
including
according to...
comparing to...

It appears, that the Armenian must use besides the Present Part, Past Participle, Infinitive (simple and declined), Substantives (abstract and concrete), Adverbs and Prepositions in order to express the English Present Participle.

PERFECT PARTICIPLE

652. The Perfect Participle has three forms: -ում, -կող, -կողի

a) The Participle in -կող is used in archaic forms only:

-ում the past, -կողոյի the deceased, -ում the dead, -կող the mentioned one, -ում the risen Lord.

b) The Participle in -կող is used in compound Tenses (See 270, 643). The Auxiliary Verb can be suppressed when the Participle precedes another Verb in the Indicative Present or Imperfect.

-ում he stands there looking
or -ում standing he looks

c) The Participle in -ում combines all the functions of a Verb, of an Adjective and of a Noun.
Perfect Participle as Verb

653. The Past Participle is used as a Verb in the compound Tenses of Perfect, Pluperfect and Future Perfect. The Perfect Participle as Verb represents the action as completed and can stand alone implying the Auxiliary Verb \( \text{ep} \).

besieged by the foe and tortured by hunger, the city opened the doors

Perfect Participle as Adjective

654. As an Attributive Adjective the Perfect Participle precedes the Noun it qualifies. As Predicate Adjective it is connected to the Subject by a Copulative Verb (see 469).

655. The Perfect Participle as Adjective is equivalent to an Adverbal Clause of place, time and to a Relative Clause.

656. The Personal Article (u, \( \pi \), \( \nu \)) should be added to the Noun, not to the Adjective. \( \text{u u w s u} \) would be a Participle Noun (657) and could not stay before another Noun as Adjective. This mistake, however, has been favored by some modern writers.

Perfect Participle as Noun

657. The Perfect Participles in -\( \text{ur} \)- become Nouns when they are given the Definite or Indefinite, or the Pronominal Articles:

do not speak ill of one deceased
ill got, ill spent (things ill acquired are ill spent)

(I'll give) to you half of what I have if what you relate is in conformity with what you have seen.

658. The Perfect Participle as Noun is equivalent to an
a) Subjective and Objective Clause:

what I saw
what I have

b) Adverbial Clause of Measure:

as much as I could — (can)

c) Adverbial Clause of Comparison:

as you like.

FUTURE PARTICIPLE

659. The Future Participle in -雹 is a declined Infinitive and denotes

a) necessity, obligation, corresponding to the English I am to...;

b) represents an action as still to take place. It is used with the forms of で in the Periphrastic Conjugation (360):

I must learn
you must be punished

660. The Future Participle in -雹 cannot be used as Noun. It is substituted by the form ending in -駕駄 for that purpose.

I know what you are going to say
it's clear what is to happen
I have nothing to say or write

661. The Future Participle in -駕駄 is equivalent to a Subjective or Objective Clause:

what I am to buy is expensive
I condemn what you will do.
SPECIAL USE OF PASSIVE VOICE

662. Passive is used a) impersonally (364); in b) intransitive; c) reflexive (335), and d) reciprocal meaning (331):

they talk much, they work little
the character of this man is changed
dress, wash, wipe, comb yourself

we saw each other and at once we were reconciled.

COMPLEMENT OF IMPERSONAL VERBS

663. Impersonal Verbs composed of a Noun or Adjective and the Auxiliary Verb ե (365) may have a Dependent Clause either in Infinitive or in Subjunctive with the Conjunction եր. The Subject, if there is one, stands in the Ethical Dative (504).

I must go
it's in vain to dispute
it's in vain you dispute

664. When the Impersonal is composed of a Noun, the Auxiliary ե can be suppressed, and the Noun alone be used like an exclamation. It may also have a Dependent Clause introduced by եր:

it's a pity that they didn't resist;

it's wonder, that the bathroom did not collapse.