

Examples of the imperative

Μήδεια: ἀλλ' ἄντομαί σε τῆσδε πρὸς γενειάδος
γονάτων τε τῶν σῶν ἱκεσία τε γίγνομαι,
οἴκτιρον οἴκτιρόν με τὴν δυσδαίμονα
καὶ μή μ' ἔρημον ἐκπεσοῦσαν εἰσίδης,

Medea: I beg you by this chin of yours, and by your knees, I am your suppliant: pity me, pity me, poor wretch that I am. Do not see me thrown out, alone.

Euripides Medea 709-11

φράσον οὖν, τούτοις ἡμῶν, τοῖς νόμοις τοῖς περὶ τοὺς γάμους, μέμφη τι ὡς οὐ καλῶς
ἔχουσιν;

Now tell us, have you any fault to find with those of us who are the laws of marriage?

Plato Crito 50d

πρῶτον μὲν οὖν ἡμῖν τοῦτ' αὐτὸ ἀπόκριναι, εἰ ἀληθῆ λέγομεν φάσκοντές σε
ὠμολογηκέναι πολιτεύσεσθαι καθ' ἡμᾶς ἔργῳ ἀλλ' οὐ λόγῳ, ἢ οὐκ ἀληθῆ.

First then, answer this question, whether we speak the truth or not when we say that you agreed, not in word, but by your acts, to live in accordance with us.

Plato Crito 52d

ἐὰν λέγῃς παρὰ ταῦτα, μάτην ἐρεῖς. ὅμως μέντοι εἴ τι οἶε πλέον ποιήσῃς, λέγε.

If you argue against these words you will speak in vain. Nevertheless, if you think you can accomplish anything, speak.

Plato Crito 54d

ἀλλ' ἔξιθ' ὡς τάχιστα, μὴ λόγους λέγε·

Go straightaway, don't say anything

Euripides Medea 321

ὕμεις δὲ σκέψασθε ὅσον ἂν καὶ τοῦτο ἀμαρτάνοιτε Κλέωνι πειθόμενοι.

Only consider what a blunder you would commit in doing as Cleon recommends.

Thucydides The Peloponnesian War 3.47

Μήδεια: τί δῆτ' ἔχρησε; λέξον, εἰ θέμις κλύειν.

Medea: Tell me what the prophesy was. Speak, if I can hear.

Euripides Medea 678

Ἰοκάστη

ἐπίσχες οὔτοι τὸ ταχὺ τὴν δίκην ἔχει,

βραδεῖς δὲ μῦθοι πλεῖστον ἀνύουσιν σοφόν.

σχάσον δὲ δεινὸν ὄμμα καὶ θυμοῦ πνοάς·

Wait! Speed does not have justice; slow thoughts bring wisdom. Restrain your awful look, the pants of your rage.

Euripides Phoenissae 452