

Conditional Sentences in Greek

Definitions:

1. A **Conditional Sentence** describes a result that follows upon the fulfilment of a condition.
 - The **if** clause is called the **protasis**, from προτάσσω ("to place in front")
 - The **then** clause is called the **apodosis**, from ἀποδίδωμι ("to give back, return")
2. A **Simple** condition implies nothing about fulfillment.
3. A **Contrary-to-Fact** condition implies that the result didn't happen (past) or is unlikely to.

	If then ...
Simple: Particular (a specific case)	εἰ indicative	indicative
Simple: General (a generalization)	εἰ / ἔαν opt / subj Unreal Mood: hypothetical situation	indicative
Contrary-to-Fact (didn't/won't happen)	εἰ ind / opt	ἄν ind / opt Unreal Particle: hypothetical result

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- **Particular** conditions have the Indicative in both the *protasis* and *apodosis*, because they refer to particular (real) situations
- **General** conditions have an *unreal* mood in the *protasis* because they don't refer to a particular case (verb in the apodosis indicates time)
- **Contrary-To-Fact** conditions have the unreal particle ὅτι in the *apodosis*, adding a sense of non-reality to the result (tenses are tricky)

		If ... (protasis)		... then ... (apodosis)		
Particular	Past Particular	εἰ	indicative (a past tense)		indicative (a past tense)	If Philip said this, he was lying
	Present Particular	εἰ	indicative (present or perfect)		indicative (present or perfect)	If you believe Philip, you are foolish
	Future Minatory (Most Vivid)	εἰ	indicative (future)		indicative (future)	If you do this, you will die.
General	Past General	εἰ	optative (aorist or present)		indicative (imperfect)	If Philip (ever) said this, he was (always) lying.
	Present General	εἰ	subjunctive (aorist or present)		indicative (present)	If you (ever) believe Philip, you are (always) foolish.
	Future More Vivid	εἰ	subjunctive (aorist or present)		indicative (future)	If the doctor does this, he will receive his pay.
Contrary-to-Fact	Past Contrary-To-Fact	εἰ	indicative (aorist)	ὅτι	indicative (aorist)	If the doctor had done this, he would have received his pay
	Present Contrary-To-Fact	εἰ	indicative (imperfect)	ὅτι	indicative (imperfect)	If our father were living, he would be helping us.
	Future Remote (Less Vivid)	εἰ	optative (aorist or present)	ὅτι	optative (aorist or present)	If the doctor were to do this, he would not receive his pay.

If you think of the Future Most Vivid (Minatory) as a particular condition (it's a threat), the Future More Vivid as a general condition, and the Future Less Vivid as unlikely to happen, the conditions fall neatly into 3 categories: Particular, General, and Contrary-To-Fact.