

## Conditional Sentences in Koine Greek

Parts of a conditional sentence:

Protasis	“if”	the condition
Apodosis	“then”	the state of affairs which results from or can be inferred from the fulfillment of the condition.

Basic relationships between the protasis and apodosis:

cause—effect	e.g. “If you eat too much your stomach will hurt.”
evidence—inference	e.g. “If people are wearing wool hats it must be cold outside.”

\*\* note: If there are two or more conditions in the protasis, they may not stand in the same relationship to the apodosis!

	Protasis (“if”)	Apodosis (“then”)	Relation to reality?
1 <sup>st</sup> class	εἰ + indicative	any mood	Assumes the truth of the protasis for the sake of argument. <i>Does not necessarily imply the author believes it to be true.</i>
	any tense	any tense	
Mt 12:27 εἰ ἐγὼ ἐν Βεελζεβούλ ἐκβάλλω τὰ δαιμόνια, οἱ υἱοὶ ὑμῶν ἐν τίνι ἐκβάλλουσιν; “If I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out?”			
2 <sup>nd</sup> class	εἰ + indicative	(ἄν) + indicative	Assumes the <i>untruth</i> of the protasis, simply highlighting what <i>would be</i> its consequences.
	aorist or imperfect	aorist (past time) imperfect (present time)	
Luke 7:39 οὗτος εἰ ἦν προφήτης, ἐγίνωσκεν ἂν τίς . . . ἅπτεται αὐτοῦ. “If this man were a prophet, he would know who . . . is touching him.”			
3 <sup>rd</sup> class	ἐάν + subjunctive	any mood	Presents the protasis as <i>uncertain, but usually still likely</i> . Can at times be used where protasis is merely hypothetical and viewed as unlikely.
	any tense	any tense	
John 11:9 ἐὰν τις περιπατῇ ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, οὐ προσκόπει “If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble.”			
4 <sup>th</sup> class	εἰ + optative	ἄν + optative	Presents the protasis as <i>merely possible in the future</i> . Because of the reduced use of the optative mood in Hellenistic Greek, no complete 4 <sup>th</sup> class conditional sentence is used in the NT.
	present or aorist	present or aorist	
1 Pet 3:14 εἰ καὶ πάσχοιτε διὰ δικαιοσύνην, μακάριοι. “Even if you were to suffer for righteousness, [you would be] blessed.”			