

Classes of Greek Conditional Sentences

Adapted from Daniel Wallace

	Protasis (“if”)	Apodosis (“then”)	Example
First Class Assumed to be true for argument’s sake	<i>ei</i> (εἰ) + indicative mood* any tense Negative: <i>ou</i> (οὐ)	any mood any tense	“If the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, then how shall we escape?” Heb. 2:2-3
	<i>epei</i> (ἐπει) + indicative mood any tense Negative: <i>ou</i> (οὐ)		“Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, so he himself likewise” Heb. 2:14
Second Class Contrary to Fact	<i>ei</i> (εἰ) + indicative mood past tense aorist** ... imperfect ... Negative: <i>me</i> (μή)	<i>an</i> (ἄν) + indicative mood past tense ... aorist (past time) ... imperfect (in present time)	“If Joshua had given them rest, then God would not have spoken of another day.” Heb. 4:8
Third Class Potentially true	<i>ean</i> (ἐάν) + subjunctive mood any tense Negative: <i>me</i> (μή)	any mood any tense	“Today, if you hear his voice, then do not harden your heart.” Heb. 3:7-8
	Participle Imperative Relative clause		“How shall we escape, neglecting such a great salvation?” Heb. 2:3 “Exhort one another ... that none of you may be hardened.” Heb. 3:13 “Whoever would draw near to God ... he rewards those who seek him.” Heb. 11:6
Fourth Class Less probable future	<i>ei</i> (εἰ) + optative mood present or aorist	<i>an</i> (ἄν) + optative mood present or aorist	“Even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, then you will be blessed.” 1 Pet. 3:14
Fifth Class Presumed to be true	<i>ean</i> (ἐάν) + subjunctive any tense Negative: <i>me</i> (μή)	Indicative Present tense	“Timothy has been released, with whom I shall see you, if he comes soon.” Heb. 13:23

*Mood = a verbal form that expresses how a speaker feels about fact, desirability, wish, command.

** A verbal ‘tense’ form that views action as a whole, without reference to time.