

GREEK CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

GENERAL CONDITIONS

PROTASIS

APODOSIS

SUBJUNCTIVE (WHENEVER THE VERB IN MAIN CLAUSE IS PRIMARY)

1. ἐὰν ἄγγελον πέμπωμεν

τὴν μάχην παύει

If we send a messenger

he (always) stops the battle

Originally called the 'Present General Condition'

2. ἐὰν ἄγγελον πέμπωμεν

τὴν μάχην παύσει
παύση
παῦσον

If we send a messenger

he'll stop the battle
let him stop the battle
stop the battle

Originally called the 'Future More Vivid Condition'

OPTATIVE (WHENEVER THE VERB IN MAIN CLAUSE IS SECONDARY)

3. εἰ ἄγγελον πέμποιμεν

τὴν μάχην ἔπαυεν

If we (ever) sent a messenger

he (always) stopped the battle

Originally called the 'Past General Condition'

4. εἰ ἄγγελον πέμποιμεν

τὴν μάχην παύσαι ἂν

If we (ever) send a messenger

he'd stop the battle

Originally called the 'Future Less Vivid Condition'

Note that in Greek, the mood of the verb in the if clause (the *protasis*) is determined by the sequence of moods alone. There is really nothing tricky here at all; 1, 2, 3 and 4 are all "General Conditions."

The difference in English between the verb forms in the subordinate (if) clauses is also regular and due to the *English* sequence of tenses; a past tense verb (*sent*) after past time main verb, a present tense verb (*send*) after a non past tense main verb (i.e., present, future or imperative).

CONTRARY TO FACT CONDITIONS

PROTASIS

APODOSIS

5. Present Contrafactual:

εἰ ἄγγελον ἔπεμπεμεν

τὴν μάχην ἔπαυεν ἂν

If we were sending a messenger
Were we to send a messenger

he'd stop the battle

6. Past Contrafactual:

εἰ ἄγγελον ἔπεμψεμεν

τὴν μάχην ἔπαυσεν ἂν

If we had sent a messenger
Were we to have sent a messenger

he'd have stopped the battle