

Greek Conditions

Two Greek words for “if”:

εἰ—[sounds like ay] “if” where the condition is assumed as true/factual

εἰάν—[sounds like on] “if” where the condition is considered possible, the “ify-if”!

4 Kinds of Conditions:

First Class Condition—where the condition is *assumed* as true

- ◆ If you are a teacher, you teach somewhere.
 - εἰ with an indicative verb in the “if part” (indicative mood **implies** factuality; it could be wrong, but it **implies** factuality in the statement
 - “Penny is a genius!”—It is stated as a fact but in actuality is not true.)
 - Different options in the “then part”
 - If you are a teacher, you teach somewhere.
 - If you are a teacher, go teach someone.
 - If you are the son of God, throw yourself down from this pinnacle.

Second Class Condition—where the condition is *assumed* as true, but it is **contrary to fact**

- ◆ If you were a teacher, you would teach somewhere. (But you DON'T teach somewhere, so you are not a teacher.)
- ◆ If Jesus were on earth today, He would not be a high priest.
 - εἰ with a past tense indicative verb in the “if part”
 - αν often used in the “then part,” with the past tense verb. If αν is there, it indicates a **contrary to fact** condition.
 - If you were a prophet, you would know what kind of woman is touching your feet. (the meaning is— You obviously can't be a prophet....—the Pharisees are *assuming* a **contrary to fact condition** the way they were wording it, even though they are wrong and Jesus is a prophet!)

Third Class Condition—where the “if part” is possible. This is the **Most Common Condition**.

- ◆ If he comes, we will go to dinner. (We don't know for sure if he will come, but it is possible.)
 - εἰάν with a subjunctive verb in the “if part;” (subjunctive— things you hope will happen, want to happen, or you predict will happen)
 - Different options in the “then part,” but it is contingent on the “if part” taking place

Fourth Class Condition— where the “if part” is a more distant possibility; the NT doesn't use this in a pure form.

- ◆ If you would win the lottery, then you could buy an island.
 - Very rare
 - Has the εἰ with optative mood in the “if part;” (optative—indicates a wish or hope that is very unlikely)

“Greek Conditions and Questions.” YouTube Video by Ken Schenck.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QufGqF4DC4>