

## Recognizing the Conditions of “If” or “ei”

There are two parts of a conditional sentences (or, a sentence with an “if” clause/)

The two parts are:

1. The subordinate clause, or “if” clause which states a supposition or condition
2. The principle clause, or “conclusion” clause, which states the result if the “if” clause is fulfilled.

Example: “If you get there early (*this is the subordinate or “if” clause*)

then you will get a good seat (*this is the principle or conclusion clause*)

The Greek word **ei** is translated into English as “if, or whether.” This word will be found in the first part or the subordinate clause of a conditional sentence.

The Greek word **an** is an untranslated word whose presence in a clause introduces the element of contingency. It will be found in the second part or the principle clause of a conditional sentence.

Here is an example from the Greek interlinear:

ει εκ του κοσμου ητε  
If of the world you were

ο κοσμος αν το ιδιον εφελει  
the world would its own have loved.

### First Class Condition

**ei** plus indicative mood . . . . .with conclusion clause in any mood and any tense  
Seen in Galatians 5:18, John 14:7

### Second Class Condition

**ei** plus imperfect tense . . . . . with conclusion clause **an** plus imperfect tense  
Seen in Luke 7:39, John 15:19 and 22

**ei** plus Aorist or Pluperfect tense . . with conclusion clause **an** plus Aorist or Pluperfect tense.  
Seen in John 11:32, Matthew 11:21

### Third Class Condition

**ei** plus Subjunctive mood . . . . . with conclusion clause in any verb form  
Seen in Romans 7:2, Matthew 9:21, 1 John 1:9

### Fourth Class Condition

**ei** plus Optative mood . . . . . with conclusion clause **an** plus Optative mood  
Seen in 1 Peter 3:14, 1 Corinthians 14:10

| CONDITION             | MEANING   | EXAMPLE VERSE  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Class | “if and it is true”   | 1 Cor. 15:2 - “I know you are”                                       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class | “if and it is not true”   | 1 Cor. 2:8 Luke 7:39   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class | “if and I don’t know”   | Matt. 4:9 - “If you will bow down and worship me”                    |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Class | “If and I wish but it is not true”<br>or, “if but it is not probable” | Luke 22:67 - “If I tell you, you will not believe”<br>1 Peter 3:14 - |

