

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

