

## Conditional Sentences in Greek [Smyth 2280-2368]

PROTASIS (“if”-statement) [neg μή (except simple= ου)] / APODOSIS (“then”-statement) [neg ου]

Simple (not describing a general situation): “do / do” or “did” “did”

<i>εἰ + indicative</i>	<i>indicative</i>
εἰ ταῦτα ποιεῖς	καλῶς ποιεῖς
If you do this	you do well.
εἰ ταῦτα ἐποίησας	καλῶς ἐποίησας.
If you did this	you did well.

Future More Vivid: “does / will do”

<i>ἐάν + subjunctive</i>	<i>future indicative</i>
ἐάν τοὺς ἀδελφούς παιδεύωσι	δῶρα πέμψομεν
If they teach the brothers	we shall send gifts.

Future Less Vivid: “should do / would do”

<i>εἰ + optative</i>	<i>optative + ἄν</i>
εἰ τοὺς ἀδελφούς παιδεύοιεν	δῶρα πέμψαιμεν ἄν
If they should teach the brothers	we would send gifts.

*\* note that the apodosis of a future less vivid condition is equivalent to a potential optative*

Present General: “does / does”

<i>ἐάν + subjunctive</i>	<i>present indicative</i>
ἐάν τοὺς ἀδελφούς παιδεύωσι	δῶρα πέμπομεν
If (when) they teach the brothers	we send gifts

Past General: “did / did”

<i>εἰ + optative</i>	<i>imperfect indicative</i>
εἰ τοὺς ἀδελφούς παιδεύοιεν	δῶρα ἐπέμπομεν
If (when) they taught the brothers	we used to send gifts.

Present Contrafactual: “were doing / would be doing”

<i>εἰ + imperfect indicative</i>	<i>imperfect indicative + ἄν</i>
εἰ τοὺς ἀδελφούς ἐπαίδευον	δῶρα ἐπέμπομεν ἄν
If they were teaching the brothers	we would be sending gifts.

Past Contrafactual: “had done / would have done”

<i>εἰ + aorist indicative</i>	<i>aorist indicative + ἄν</i>
εἰ τοὺς ἀδελφούς ἐπαίδευσαν	δῶρα ἐπέψαμεν ἄν
If they had taught the brothers	we would have sent gifts.

### The particle ἄν [Smyth 1761-1849]

- ἄν (and enclitic κεν in early epic) imparts conditional and/or potential force (“might”, “may”, “could”, “would”, “should”) to verbs in past tenses of the indicative, usually imperfect or aorist, and with the optative, infinitive and participle.
- In Attic, ἄν occurs only in protases of conditional relative sentences, sometimes ὡς- and ὅπως-clauses, and with the optative in apodoses of future less vivid conditions, or has potential force.
- ἄν is not used with the present or perfect indicative, nor, in Attic, with independent subjunctive.
- The future indicative is used with ἄν in pre-classical poetry, but only rarely in Attic Greek.
- With past tenses (mainly aorist), ἄν represents a past action as dependent on past circumstances. Except in conditions, (i.e., contrafactual) the imperfect with ἄν regularly refers to past time.