GREEK CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

GENERAL CONDITIONS

PROTASIS

SUBJUNCTIVE (WHENEVER THE VERB IN MAIN CLAUSE IS PRIMARY)

1. ἐὰν ἄγγελον πέμπωμεν
   
   If we send a messenger

   Originally called the ‘Present General Condition’

   τὴν μάχην παύει

2. ἐὰν ἄγγελον πέμπωμεν
   
   If we send a messenger

   Originally called the ‘Future More Vivid Condition’

   τὴν μάχην παύσει
   παύση
   παύσον

OPTATIVE (WHENEVER THE VERB IN MAIN CLAUSE IS SECONDARY)

3. εἴ ἄγγελον πέμποιμεν
   
   If we (ever) sent a messenger

   Originally called the ‘Past General Condition’

   τὴν μάχην ἐπαύει

4. εἴ ἄγγελον πέμποιμεν
   
   If we (ever) send a messenger

   Originally called the ‘Future Less Vivid Condition’

   τὴν μάχην παύσαι ἂν

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protasis</th>
<th>Apodosis</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Present Contrafactual:</td>
<td></td>
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<td>εἰ ἁγγελον ἔπεμπεμεν</td>
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<td>he’d stop the battle</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>6. Past Contrafactual:</td>
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<td>he’d have stopped the battle</td>
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