

## CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

Conditional sentences are made up of a conditional clause, usually containing *si* or *nisi*, and a main clause.

### TYPES OF CONDITIONALS

#### 1. SIMPLE CONDITIONALS

How it is constructed: *si* + indicative, indicative (in any tense.)

How it is translated: If you do this, I do that.

Example: *Si illud iterum feceris, te puniam.*

If you do that again, I will punish you.

\*Translate the verbs as they appear, in the proper tense.

#### 2. FUTURE CONDITIONALS

##### A. Future More Vivid.

How it is constructed: *Si* + future perfect indicative, future indicative

How it is translated: If this happens, this will happen.<sup>1</sup>

Example: *Si in urbe manebit, in periculo erit.*

If he stays in the city, he will be in danger.

##### B. Future Less Vivid.

How it is constructed: *Si* + present subjunctive, present subjunctive.

How it is translated: If I were to ..., I would ...

Example: *Si hanc medicinam bibas, statim convalescas.*

If you were to drink this medicine, you would get better at once.

#### 3. CONTRARY-TO-FACT CONDITIONALS

##### A. Present contrary-to-fact.

How it is constructed: *si* + imperfect subjunctive, imperfect subjunctive

How it is translated: If I were to ... I would ...

Example: *Si Romae nunc habitarem, clientes me assidue vexarent.*

If I were living in Rome now, my clients would be continually pestering me.

##### B. Past Contrary to Fact.

How it is constructed: *si* + pluperfect subjunctive, pluperfect subjunctive.

How it is translated: If you had ... you would have ...

Example: *Magister, nisi nimis vini bibisset, in flumen non cecidisset.*

If the teacher had not drunk too much wine, he would not have fallen into the river.

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### SUMMARY

#### CONDITIONALS WITH THE INDICATIVE

1. Simple conditionals: *Si* + indicative, indicative. If I leave now, I arrive on time.

2. Future More Vivid: *Si* + future indicative, future indicative: If I leave now, I will arrive on time.

#### CONDITIONALS WITH THE SUBJUNCTIVE

1. Future Less Vivid, referring to future time: *Si* + present subjunctive, present subjunctive. If I were to leave now, I would arrive on time.

2. Present Contrary to Fact (*Si* clause states something known to be false) *Si* + imperfect subjunctive, imperfect subjunctive: If I were leaving now, I would be arriving on time.

3. Past Contrary-to-Fact (*Si* + pluperfect subjunctive, pluperfect subjunctive) If I had left, I would have arrived on time.

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<sup>1</sup> In English, we translate the protasis ("if-clause") of future more vivid conditionals with a verb in the present tense, and the future action is implied; Latin more literally (and more logically) uses the future or future perfect.