

**Wheelock Chapter 33**  
**Conditional Statements**

Know the classification of simple conditional sentences.

Classify the type of conditional and translate.

1. **sī mēcum veniēs, laeta erō.**

*Type of Conditional:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Translation:*

\_\_\_\_\_

2. **sī mēcum vēnissēs, laeta fuisset.**

*Type of Conditional:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Translation:*

\_\_\_\_\_

3. **sī mēcum venīrēs, laeta essem.**

*Type of Conditional:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Translation:*

\_\_\_\_\_

4. **sī mēcum veniās, laeta sim.**

*Type of Conditional:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Translation:*

\_\_\_\_\_

5. **sī mē laudāvissēs, tē adiuvissem.**

*Type of Conditional:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Translation:*

\_\_\_\_\_

6. **sī mē laudābis, tē adiuvābō.**

*Type of Conditional:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Translation:*

\_\_\_\_\_

7. **sī nōs adiuvābis, tē laudābimus.**

*Type of Conditional:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Translation:*

\_\_\_\_\_

8. **sī nōs adiūvissēs, tē laudāvissēmus.**

*Type of Conditional:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Translation:*

\_\_\_\_\_

9. **sī nōs adiuvārēs, tē laudārēmus.**

*Type of Conditional:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Translation:*

\_\_\_\_\_

10. **sī bonus essēs, nōs adiuvārēs.**

*Type of Conditional:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Translation:*

\_\_\_\_\_

11. **sī bonus fuissēs, nōs adiūvissēs.**

*Type of Conditional:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Translation:*

\_\_\_\_\_

12. **sī quandō amīcī nostrī veniant, nōs adiūvent.**

*Type of Conditional:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Translation:*

\_\_\_\_\_

13. **sī amīcī nostrī adessent, nōs adiūvārent.**

*Type of Conditional:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Translation:*

\_\_\_\_\_

### Vocabulary

**adiūvō, adiuvāre, adiūvī, adiūtum:** to help  
**adsum, adesse, adfuī, adfūtūrus:** to be present  
**amīcus, -ī, m.:** friend  
**bonus, -a, -um:** good  
**laudō, laudāre, laudāvī, laudātum:** to praise  
**laetus, -a, -um:** joyous, happy, glad  
**meus, -a, -um:** my  
**nōs, nōbīs, nōs:** we, us

**noster, -stra, -um:** our  
**sī (adv.):** if; **sī quandō** = “if ever”  
**sum, esse, fuī, fūtūrus:** to be  
**tu, tuī, tibi, tē, tē** you (*singular*)  
**tuus, -a, -um:** your  
**veniō, venīre, vēnī, ventum:** to come  
**videō, vidēre, vīsī, vīsum:** to see

## *Rēs Grammaticae*

### Conditional Statements

Conditional statements limit the application of the principal clause by a subordinate clause in ‘if’ or ‘unless’: ‘If this, then that’. The if-clause is known as the *protasis* (meaning ‘stretching forth’) and the principal clause is called the *apodosis* (meaning ‘give-back’).

Broadly speaking, there are two types of conditional statement. The author may feel objectively neutral about whether the statement is true or not (these are said to be *open conditions*; open conditions are like simple equations: ‘If A, then B.’). Or the author may signal that the statement is hypothetical: that it is a way of representing something that did not happen then, does not happen now, or that may or will happen in the future. With reference to the past and present, such conditions are said to be *unreal* or *contrafactual*; with reference to the future they are said to be *more* or *less vivid*.

Open conditions in Latin are handled much as they are in English: an indicative is used in both clauses. The statement in English ‘If he says this, he is mistaken’ has two possible meanings: (a) ‘If he is now saying this, he is mistaken’; (b) ‘If ever he says this, he is mistaken’. Both are represented in Latin by **sī hōc dīcīt, errat**. Statement (a) refers to the particular present, statement (b) refers to a general present (‘if ever’). Past open conditionals also may have particular or general reference and observe the same simple formula – the indicative in both clauses:

**sī hoc dīxit, errāvit.**

“If he said this, he was mistaken.”

**sī hoc dīcēbat, errābat.**

“If (= Whenever) he was saying this, he was making a mistake.”

**sī peccāverat, poenās dābat.**

“Whenever (= If ever) he had done wrong, he used to be punished.”

The open condition in the present may refer to a generalized second person singular (‘you’ in the sense of ‘one’). In this case, the protasis will have its verb in the subjunctive, for the same reason that relative clauses of characteristic take the subjunctive:

**sī quid dīcās, creditur.**

“If one says anything, it is believed.”

Hypothetical conditions are of two sorts: (a) ‘unreal’ conditions that refer to the present and past; and (b) ‘ideal’ that refer to the future. Ideal conditions are further divided between those that are ‘more likely’ and those that are ‘less likely’. All of these conditions in Latin, except the ‘future more likely’ conditional, require the subjunctive.

The imperfect subjunctive used in both clauses refers to present unreal situation (‘If I were you, I would ...’); the pluperfect subjunctive refers to past unreal situations (‘If I had been there, I would have ...’); a future more likely situation is represented by the future or future perfect indicative in both clauses (‘If it rains, I will stay home.’); the future less likely (or future conjectural) is represented by the present subjunctive, and is often translated by ‘should-would’: ‘If he should turn up, I would leave’.

Notice that English if often ambiguous in expressing conditionals, where Latin is not. The present-contrary-to-fact and the future-less-likely may take the same form in English:

**sī hoc dīxeret, errāret.**

“If he said (*i.e.* were [*now*] saying) this, he would be mistaken.”

**sī hoc dīcat, erret.**

“If he said (*i.e.* should [*in future*] say) this, he would be mistaken.”

Study the chart on the following page.

### *Hypothetical Conditionals*

Present Unreal

**Protasis:** Imperfect Subjunctive

**Apodosis:** Imperfect Subjunctive

*sī hoc dīceret, errāret.*<sup>\*</sup>

“If he said (were saying) this, he would be mistaken.”

*also* “If he said this, he would be mistaken.”

Past Unreal

**Protasis:** Pluperfect Subjunctive

**Apodosis:** Pluperfect Subjunctive

*sī hoc dīxisset, errāvisset.*<sup>\*\*</sup>

“If he had said this, he would have been mistaken.”

Future Likely

**Protasis:** Future/Future Perfect Indicative

**Apodosis:** Future Indicative

*sī hoc dīcet, errābit.*<sup>†</sup>

“If he says this, he will be mistaken.”

*sī hoc fēcerit, poenās dabit.*

“If he does this, he will be punished.”

Future Less Likely

**Protasis:** Present Subjunctive

**Apodosis:** Present Subjunctive

*sī hoc dīceret, errāret.*<sup>‡</sup>

“If he said (should say) this, he would be mistaken.”

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Notes

\* Sometimes English omits ‘if’ and inverts the subject-verb order, putting ‘were’ first: “Were I you, I would not do this”.

\*\* This is often incorrectly expressed in conversational American English as ‘If he would have ... he would have’. The past perfect forms in these conditionals (‘had said’) etc. are actually perfect subjunctives.

† Notice that English uses a present tense in the protasis, a future in the apodosis. We do not translate the future perfect as such.

‡ Sometimes English omits the ‘if’ and inverts the subject-verb order, putting ‘should’ first: “Should he say this, he would be mistaken”. Notice that English may use ‘were’ (the past subjunctive) with the infinitive to denote futurity: “Were he to say this, he would be mistaken”.