

# **GREEK GRAMMATICAL USAGE**

## **I. TENSE - Relates the verb to time and kind of action**

1. Present (pres.) - continuous action at the present time.
2. Future (fut.) - action planned for a future time.
3. Aorist (arst.) - action occurring in a point of time.  
Aorist participle (arst. Part.) - usually denotes an action which precedes the action of the main verb in the sentence.
4. Imperfect (imp.) - continuous action in the past.
5. Perfect (per.) - completed action with finished results in the present time.
6. Pluperfect (pluperf.) – completed action with finished results in past time.

## **II. VOICE - Relation of the verb to the subject**

1. Active (act.) - the subject produces the action.
2. Passive (pass.) - the subject receives the action of the verb.
3. Middle (mid.) - the subject participates in the results of the action or additional stress is laid upon the subject as producing the action. ex. “He himself did it.”

## **III. MOOD - Relation of the verb to reality**

1. Indicative (ind.) - the mood of reality or certainty.
2. Subjunctive (sub.) - the mood of potentiality or probability.
3. Imperative (imp.) - the mood of command or volition.
4. Optative (opt.) - the mood of desire or possibility.

## **IV. Other verbal forms**

1. Infinitive (inf.) - is often used to express purpose or result.
2. Participle (part.) - describes its subject as a doer of the action denoted by the verb.

## **V. CONDITIONAL CLAUSES - Begin with “IF”**

1. 1<sup>ST</sup> Class - If and it is true (Matt. 4:6) - Reality
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Class - If and it is not true (Matt. 4:9) – Unreality
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Class - Maybe it is true and maybe it is not (I John 1:9) – Possibility
4. 4<sup>th</sup> Class - I wish it were but it is not true (Acts 17:27) – Not Probable

## Conditional Clauses

1. A conditional clause is a statement of supposition plus the fulfillment of which is assumed to secure the realization of the potential fact expressed in the companion clause. First clause gives the supposition and the second clause gives the fulfillment.
2. The clause containing the supposition is called 'Protasis'.
3. The clause containing the statement based on the supposition is called 'Apodosis'.
4. All conditional clauses are categorized on the basis of the attitude they express with reference to reality.
5. For example:
  - a. 1st Class condition - Supposition from the viewpoint of reality ('ei' plus the indicative in the Protasis) IF and it is true Luke 4:3: "If you are the Son of God . . . and you are . . ."
  - b. 2nd class condition - Supposition from the viewpoint of unreality - contrary to fact condition ('ean' in the Protasis plus 'oun' in the Apodosis) IF and it is NOT true Luke 4:7: "If you will fall down and worship me-but you won't"
  - c. 3rd class condition - The 'more probable' future condition ('ean' plus the subjunctive in the Protasis) IF . . . maybe we will, maybe we won't I John 1:9 : "If we confess our sins - maybe we will, maybe we won't . . ."
  - d. 4th class condition - The 'less probable' future condition ('ei' plus the optative mood in the Protasis; OR {I think this is OR} 'oun' plus the optative mood in the Apodosis) IF . . . and I wish it were but it is NOT true I Peter 3:14: "But if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, I wish it was TRUE but it is NOT . . ."

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Debaters 1st class condition - assumes something false to be true so the debater can then go on and prove by logic that it really is a falsehood. Should be translated "Let's assume . . . then it is logical to conclude. . ."