CONDITIONAL CLAUSES: ENGLISH OVERVIEW

PRESENT AND PAST CONDITIONS

	Unknown (i.e. may or may not be true)	**Counterfactual** (i.e. **known** not to be true)
Present:	if he **is** lying, he **is** a rascal	if it **were** sunny, we **would be** picnick**ing**
Past:	if he lie**d**, he **was** a rascal	if it **had** rained, we **would have** gone home

FUTURE CONDITIONS

	Unknown (i.e. may or may not happen)	**Unlikely** (i.e. **assumed** not to be going to happen)
Future:	if it rain**s** tomorrow, I **will** take my brolly	if that slave **were to** become consul, he **would** rule badly

CONDITIONAL CLAUSES: ENGLISH OVERVIEW

(alternative layout)

UNKNOWN CONDITIONS

present unknown: if he **is** lying, he **is** a rascal

past unknown: if he lie**d**, he **was** a rascal

future unknown: if it rain**s** tomorrow, I **will** take my brolly

COUNTERFACTUAL CONDITIONS

present counterfactual: if it **were** sunny, we **would be** picnick**ing**

past counterfactual: if it **had** rained, we **would have** gone home

UNLIKELY CONDITIONS

future unlikely: if that slave **were to** become consul, he **would** rule badly

CONDITIONAL CLAUSES: LATIN GRID

	Open (= unknown)	**Closed** (= counterfactual or unlikely)
Present	si/nisi + 2 x present indicative	si/nisi + 2 x imperfect subjunctive
Past	si/nisi + 2 x past indicative (imperfect, perfect or mix)	si/nisi + 2 x pluperfect subjunctive
Future	si / nisi + 1 x future perfect indicative + 1 x future indicative OR si/nisi + 2 x future indicative	si/nisi + 2 x present subjunctive

CONDITIONAL CLAUSES: BLANK GRID

	Open (= unknown)	**Closed** (= counterfactual or unlikely)
Present		
Past		
Future		

CONDITIONAL CLAUSES: EXTRA NOTES

1. The protasis ('if' clause) and apodosis ('then' clause) may be switched round in Latin, as in English.

   e.g. "I would be sunbathing, if I were in Florida"

2. The apodosis may be replaced simply by an imperative.

   e.g. "If you don't own the *Aeneid*, buy a copy!"

3. Mixing tenses is very common (especially a past protasis followed by a present apodosis).

   e.g. 1 "if the slave lied, he is a rascal"

   (= past/present open mix…Latin uses past indic + present indic)

   e.g. 2 "if I had got back in time, I would be watching the news"

   (= past/present closed mix…Latin uses plup subj + imp subj)

4. Mixing moods is very uncommon.

   However, verbs of **ability** or **obligation** in the **apodosis** of a **closed conditional** will go into the indicative (the need for a subjunctive is overridden).

   e.g. "si ad forum ivissem, panem emere **potui**".

   ("if I had gone to the forum, I **would have** been able to buy bread")

CONDITIONAL CLAUSES – practice sentences (Latin)

1. si illum adiuvisti, certe patriam prodidisti

2. si in forum descenderis, fortasse senatores in Curiam intrantes videbis

3. nisi his viatoribus cibum dederitis, fame peribunt

4. si forte lupum videam, quam celerrime aufugiam

5. si media aestate navigaret, nec venti nec fluctus eum impedirent

6. nisi matri paruisses, a patre culpatus esses

7. si mihi in hoc discrimine subveniant, gratias maximas eis agam

8. rex, nisi miles eum fefellisset, magnum praemium ei dedisset

9. si fidem servavisti, cur civibus rem explicare times?

10. si cras ad Circum ire vultis, iam cubitum ire necesse est

11. nisi mecum in forum descendisset, illud spectaculum non vidisset

12. si revera patriam amares, hostes non adiuvares

CONDITIONAL CLAUSES – practice sentences (English)

1. If you say this you are ignorant

2. If you do this you will suffer

3. If you had done this you would have suffered

4. If you were to do this you would suffer

5. If you had done this you would be suffering

6. If they come I shall see them

7. If they had come I would have seen them

8. If they said this they were mistaken

9. If I do not see you I will write

10. If I had seen you I should not have written

11. If I were not here they would have written

12. If I were to see them I should not write