

### E. Conditional Sentences

The sentence "If he works, he is happy" is a conditional sentence. It is composed of two clauses, the *if* clause (sometimes called the *protasis*) and the *concluding* clause (called the *apodosis*). The *protasis* is introduced in Latin by *sī*, 'if', or *nisi*, 'unless, if not'.

Conditional sentences may be broken up into three basic categories and are formed in Latin according to a specific formula for each category.

#### 1. SIMPLE (GENERAL) CONDITIONS

If (i.e., whenever) he works, he desires money.

Such conditions may also be expressed in past time:

If (i.e., whenever) he worked, he desired money.

FORMULA: Indicative in both clauses.

*Sī labōrat, pecūniam optat.*

*Sī labōrābat, pecūniam optābat.*

*Sī labōrāvit, pecūniam optāvit.*

#### 2. FUTURE CONDITIONS

##### a. MORE VIVID

If he works, he will desire money.

This type of condition is expressed in English by the present indicative in the *if* clause and the future in the concluding clause.

FORMULA: Future indicative in both clauses.

*Sī labōrābit, pecūniam optābit.*

NOTE: Occasionally, when the speaker wishes the implications of the condition to be exceptionally emphatic, the future perfect indicative is used in the *protasis* instead of the simple future.

*Sī labōrāverit, pecūniam optābit.*    *If he works (will have worked),  
he will desire money.*

In such cases it is emphasized that the action in the *protasis* *must* be completed in order for the action in the *apodosis* to occur. Frequently, in English, it is difficult to illustrate the difference between the future and the future perfect in such clauses, except by giving special intonation to the voice, or, in printing, by using italics.

##### b. LESS VIVID

If he should work, he would desire money.

These conditions, while they refer to future time, conceive of the future act less vividly, or less certainly, than future more vivid conditions.

FORMULA: Present subjunctive in both clauses. (In English, *should ... would ...*)

Sī labōret, pecūniam optet.

NOTE: Occasionally the perfect subjunctive is used instead of the present, but this is rare, and so its discussion has been omitted from these materials.

### 3. CONTRARY-TO-FACT CONDITIONS

#### a. PRESENT CONTRARY-TO-FACT

Contrary-to-fact conditions state something which is untrue and hypothesized.

If he were (now) working (but he is not), he would be desiring money (he would desire money).

FORMULA: Imperfect subjunctive in both clauses. (In English, *were ...ing, ...would be...-ing / would ...*)

Sī labōrāret, pecūniam optāret.

#### b. PAST CONTRARY-TO-FACT

If he had (in the past) worked (but he did not), he would have desired money.

FORMULA: Pluperfect subjunctive in both clauses. (In English, *had..., would have...*)

Sī labōrāvisset, pecūniam optāvisset.

### 4. MIXED CONDITIONS

In addition to the strict formulae given above, occasionally one finds a mixed condition where the protasis and the apodosis belong to different categories. Such conditions are constructed as logical thought requires. For example:

If he had (in the past) worked (but he did not), he would (now) be desiring money (he would desire money).

This sentence is past contrafactual in the protasis, but the apodosis refers to present time. Consequently, the protasis must have its verb in the pluperfect subjunctive, while the verb of the apodosis will be imperfect subjunctive.

Sī labōrāvisset, pecūniam optāret.

### F. Genitive with Verbs of Accusing and Condemning

The genitive is used with verbs of accusing and condemning to express the charge or the penalty.