Conditional Sentences

with compliments from Graham Thomason

מִשׁפּטֵי תנַאי

	UNREAL CONDITION תנַאי בָּטֵל	REAL CONDITION תנַאי קַייָם
Future	If you were to do this, you would do wrong.	If you do this, you will do wrong.
עָּתִיד	אִילוּ עַשִׂיתָ אֶת זֶה, הָיִיתָ טוֹעֶה	אָם תַעֲשֶׂה אֶת זֶה, תִטעֶה.
Present		If you do this, you do wrong.
punctiliar הוֹוֵה	(not possible)	אִם אַתָה עוֹשֶׂה אֶת זֶה, אַתָה טוֹעֶה.
Present	If you were (now) doing this, you would be	If you are doing this, you are doing wrong.
continuous	doing wrong.	
הוֹוֶה	אִילוּ עָשִׂיתָ אֶת זֶה, הָיִיתָ טוֹעֶה.	אָם אַתָה עוֹשֶׂה אֶת זֶה, אַתָה טוֹעָה.
Habitual past	If you were to have been doing this (regularly), you would have been doing	If you were doing this (regularly), you were doing wrong.
פּעוּלָה 🗍	wrong.	
<u>הֶרגֵּלִית</u>	אִילוּ עַשִׂיתָ אֶת זֶה, הָיִיתָ טוֹעֶה.	אִם הָיִיתָ עוֹשֶׂה אֶת זֶה, הָיִיתָ טוֹעֶה.
Imperfect עֶבֶר	If you were to have been doing this (at the time of the incident), you would have been doing wrong.	If you were doing this (at the time of the incident), you were doing wrong.
	אִילוּ עַשִׂיתָ אֶת זֶה, הָיִיתָ טוֹעָה.	אָם עָשִׂיתָ אֶת זֶה, טָצִיתָ
Perfect	If you had done this, you would have done	If you did this, you did wrong.
עָּבָר	wrong. If you were to have done this, you would have done wrong.	אָם עַשִׂיתָ אֶת זֶה, טָעִיתָ.
	אִילוּ עָשִׂיתָ אֶת זֶה, הָיִיתָ טוֹעֶה.	

Notes:

- Other English names for *unreal conditions* are
  - unfulfilled conditions
  - hypothetical conditions
  - $\circ$  potential conditions (applies to the unreal future only).
- In English, the *if* clause is called the *protasis* (*premiss*, also spelled *premise*), and the *main* clause is called the *apodosis* (*answering clause*).
- The present punctiliar in English (if you do this, you do wrong) is unusual, and impossible in unreal conditions.
- In English, the habitual past and imperfect coincide.
- For unreal conditions, *Hebrew only has one form for all time-frames*. The time-frame must be determined from the context.
- Unlike Hebrew, the English protasis for a real *future* condition is in the *present* tense (if you *do* this); it is the apodosis that brings out the future time frame (you *will* do wrong).
- Hebrew also uses
  - אילו (for אילו)
  - אילוּלָא and אִילוּלָא for *if not*, unless.
- The Hebrew future tense does not use the personal pronoun, אָתָה, as it is only required for the third person (he, she).

This document (version of 11 March 2010) compiled by Graham Thomason.