



Piazza della Grammatica 1 • Antonella Olson & Eric Edwards, Presentatori e Capocomici

Gentili Ascoltatori, Dear Listeners,  
Here's a transcript of "Truth or Consequences," our recent show on hypothetical statements of the second and third types. You can hear this podcast by clicking on the following link:  
<https://coerll.utexas.edu/ra/episode/ep22.html>

Buon ascolto e buon divertimento!

Hanno partecipato / Featured in this broadcast:

Esmeralda Moscatelli            *as Colombina*  
Simone Sessolo                    *as Pantalone*

**condizione** - *condition* | **conseguenza** – *consequence*

### Nostalgia e desiderio

**Antonella:** Se **potessimo** tornare indietro...

**Eric:** Non lo **farei**, neanche se **potessi**.

**Antonella:** Come mai? Credevo che tu fossi preso dalla nostalgia.

**Eric:** Più forte della nostalgia ora è il mio desiderio di avere un incontro ravvicinato

**Antonella:** del secondo tipo?

**Eric:** e anche del terzo.

### Flashback 1

**Arlecchino:** Ecco, arriva il Dottore! Temo che lui ce l'abbia con me. Mi arrampico sulla scala, così non mi vedrà..

### Nostalgia e desiderio

**Antonella:** If we could turn back...

**Eric:** I wouldn't do it, even if I could.

**Antonella:** How come? I thought you were overcome with nostalgia.

**Eric:** Stronger than nostalgia now is my desire to have a close encounter--

**Antonella:** of the second type?

**Eric:** and of the third as well.

### Flashback 1

**Arlecchino:** There, here comes the Dottore! I'm afraid he has it in for me. I'll climb up the ladder, that way he won't see me.

**condizione: imperfetto del congiuntivo**

Se Arlecchino non **avesse** così tanta paura del Dottore...

**conseguenza: condizionale presente**

non **si arrampicherebbe** sulla scala per nascondersi.

If Arlecchino weren't so afraid of the Dottore  
he wouldn't climb up the ladder to hide.

**conseguenza: condizionale presente**

Il Dottore non ce l'**avrebbe** con Arlecchino...

**condizione: imperfetto del congiuntivo**

se lui non **fosse** così birichino

The Dottore wouldn't have it in for Arlecchino if he weren't so mischievous.

**Flashback 2**

**Pantalone:** Non c'è nessun altro qui che abbia visto quello che è successo?

**Colombina:** Te lo racconto io come è andata. Dunque, quando ha visto che ero proprio lì sotto, ha messo appositamente un piede male sulla scala! Mi ha guardato all'alto e penso proprio che l'abbia fatto apposta a cadere.

**condizione: imperfetto del congiuntivo**

Se Colombina **fosse** meno furbastra...

**conseguenza: condizionale presente**

non **darebbe** la colpa di tutto al povero Arlecchino.

If Colombina weren't such a scoundrel  
she wouldn't blame Arlecchino for everything.

**Flashback 3**

**Antonella:** Sopra la scrivania, su quello scaffale... Prendi quella scatola...

**Eric:** Cosa c'è dentro...?

**Antonella:** Dai, dai, svita il cappuccio...

**Flashback 2**

**Pantalone:** Is there noone else who saw what happened?

**Colombina:** I'll tell you how it went. Now, when he saw that I was right under there, he deliberately took a false step on the ladder! He looked at me from above and I do believe he fell on purpose.

**Flashback 3**

**Antonella:** Above the desk, on that shelf... Get that jar...

**Eric:** What's inside...?

**Antonella:** Go on, unscrew the lid...

**Eric:** Antonella... ma cos'è questo?

**Antonella:** Oh, scusa, hai preso quella sbagliata, scusa, scusa... Ci dev'essere un'altra, controlla.

**Eric:** La vedo, ma oso aprirla?

**Antonella:** Ma sì! Abbi coraggio, Eric!

**Eric:** Accidenti!

**Antonella:** Oh, Eric! Che mani di pasta frolla che hai! Quelli sono i miei fagioli saltellanti!

**condizione: imperfetto del congiuntivo**

Se tu non **fossi** così autoritaria...

**conseguenza: condizionale passato**

Non **avrei avuto** così tante sorprese scioccanti!

If you weren't so bossy I would never have had so many shocking surprises!

**Eric:** Antonella... what's this?

**Antonella:** Oh, sorry, you got the wrong one, sorry, sorry... There should be another one, take a look.

**Eric:** I see it, but do I dare open it?

**Antonella:** Of course! Be brave, Eric!

**Eric:** Yikes!

**Antonella:** Oh, Eric! What a butterfingers you are. Those are my jumping beans!

## Flashback 4

**Dottore:** Avete visitato il Vittoriano?  
Avete ammirato il Foro Romano?

**i turisti:** Sì!

**Dottore:** Siete andati ai Musei Vaticani?  
Avete messo la mano nella Bocca della Verità?

**i turisti:** Sì!

**Dottore:** Avete camminato da Piazza Navona fino alla Fontana di Trevi?

**i turisti:** Sì!

**Dottore:** Avete salito la scalinata in Piazza di Spagna?

## Flashback 4

**Dottore:** Have you visited the Vittoriano?  
Have you admired the Roman Forum?

**The Tourists:** Yes!

**Dottore:** Have you gone to the Vatican Museums? Have you put your hands in the Mouth of Truth?

**The Tourists:** Yes!

**Dottore:** Have you walked from Piazza Navona to the Trevi Fountain?

**The Tourists:** Yes!

**Dottore:** Have you climbed the Spanish Steps?

**i turisti:** Oh, sì!

**Dottore:** Siete stanchi?

**i turisti:** Sì!

**Antonella:** Quei poveri turisti hanno camminato per tutta Roma in piena estate!

**Eric:** Perciò sono stanchissimi.

**condizione: trapassato del congiuntivo**

Se non **avessero camminato** per tutta Roma in piena estate,

**conseguenza: condizionale presente**

non **sarebbero** così stanchi.

If they had not walked all over Rome in the middle of the summer, they would not be so tired.

## Flashback 5

**Dottore:** Se ho dei petardi! Pulcinella, portami una scatola di petardi per il giovanotto... E per la signorina, queste meravigliose candele magiche “Gatto Nero”, un balocco divertente per tutta la famiglia...

Oh, Pulcinella sì lo conoscono... Eccoli eccoli eccoli! Signori e signore, bambini di tutte le età, venite... sentitemi... Partecipate alle feste di San Giovanni, di Capodanno, di Natale, a tutte le feste dell'anno... Qui ci sono i rumori più sbalorditivi, le luci più brillanti, i colori più stravaganti, il fumo più misterioso, qui ci sono... i fuochi d'artificio Gatto Nero!

Sì, sì... i razzi “Gatto Nero” sono giustamente famosi in tutto il mondo! Osservate...

**The Tourists:** Oh, yes!

**Dottore:** Are you tired?

**The Tourists:** Yes!

**Antonella:** Those poor tourists have walked all over Rome in the middle of the summer!

**Eric:** That's why they're worn out.

## Flashback 5

**Dottore:** Do I have firecrackers! Pulcinella, bring me a box of firecrackers for the young man. And for the young lady, these wonderful Gatto Nero sparklers, a fun-filled amusement for the whole family.

Oh, Pulcinella they know... Here they are, here they are, here they are! Ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages, come, hear me... Join in the feasts of Saint John, of the New Year, of Christmas, in all the holidays of the year... Here are the most amazing sounds, the most brilliant lights, the most extravagant colors, the most mysterious smoke, here are... Gatto Nero fireworks!

Yes, yes... Gatto Nero rockets are justly famous throughout the world! Observe...

Accendo ora la miccia... Colombina, per favore...

**Colombina:** Ecco, Dottore

**Dottore:** Grazie, mia cara...

*Et nunc...* State per vedere qualcosa di veramente inverosimile....

**Colombina:** Oh! Lei senz'altro lo vedrà, Dottore!

**Dottore:** Tre... due... uno... Fuoco!

Meravigliatevi ora davanti all'incomparabile pirotecnica "Gatto Nero"!

**Antonella:** Il Dottore ha fatto un bel viaggio sulla luna...

**Eric:** grazie a Pulcinella che gli ha dato una mano con il razzo.

**conseguenza: condizionale passato**

Il Dottore non **avrebbe** mai **viaggiato** sulla luna...

**condizione: trapassato del congiuntivo**

se Pulcinella non gli **avesse dato** una mano con il razzo.

**condizione: trapassato del congiuntivo**

Se il Dottore non **avesse fatto** una tale dimostrazione,

**conseguenza: condizionale passato**

quei ragazzi americani non **si sarebbero divertiti** così tanto alla festa di San Giovanni a Firenze.

If the Dottore had not made such a demonstration, those American kids would not have had such a good time at the Feast of Saint John in Florence.

## Riflessioni e ricordi

**Eric:** E se tu non **fossi andata** in Italia quell'estate, io non **sarei rimasto** qui da solo nello studio.

Now I light the fuse... Colombina, if you please...

**Colombina:** There you are, Dottore

**Dottore:** Thank you, my dear...

*Et nunc...* You're about to see something truly incredible....

**Colombina:** Oh! You're about to see it for sure, Dottore!

**Dottore:** Three... two... one... Fire!

Now wonder in amazement before the incomparable Gatto Nero pyrotechnics!

**Antonella:** The Dottore took a fine trip to the moon...

**Eric:** thanks to Pulcinella who gave him a hand with the rocket.

**conseguenza: condizionale passato**

Il Dottore non **avrebbe** mai **viaggiato** sulla luna...

**condizione: trapassato del congiuntivo**

se Pulcinella non gli **avesse dato** una mano con il razzo.

**condizione: trapassato del congiuntivo**

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quei ragazzi americani non **si sarebbero divertiti** così tanto alla festa di San Giovanni a Firenze.

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## Riflessioni e ricordi

**Eric:** And if you hadn't gone to Italy that summer, I wouldn't have been left here alone in the studio.

**Antonella:** È vero che qui nello studio ci si può sentire abbandonati...

**Antonella:** It's true that here in the studio one can feel abandoned...

**Eric:** Soprattutto in estate, quando i nostri amici attori sono tutti partiti per andare in vacanza.

**Eric:** Especially in the summer, when our actor friends have all left to go on vacation.

**Antonella:** **Sarei** molto più contenta adesso se **fossero** qui con noi.

**Antonella:** I would be much happier now if they were here with us.

**Eric:** Pantalone **rimproverebbe** Pulcinella...

**Eric:** Pantalone would scold Pulcinella...

**Antonella:** se Pulcinella **avesse** la faccia tosta di affrontarlo.

**Antonella:** if Pulcinella had the cheek to confront him.

**Eric:** Se **vedesse** entrare un bel giovanotto, Arlecchina--

**Eric:** If she saw a handsome young man come in, Arlecchina--

**Antonella:** --**farebbe** senz'altro la civetta

**Antonella:** --would surely play the flirt

**Eric:** e Colombina **si arrabbierebbe**. Se Pulcinella **suonasse** il mandolino....

**Eric:** and Colombina would get mad. If Pulcinella played the mandolin...

**Antonella:** **potremmo** ballare la tarantella.

**Antonella:** we could dance the tarantella.

**Eric:** **Dovremmo** ballare invece la square dance

**Eric:** Instead we would have to dance a square dance

**Antonella:** se ci **fosse** la signora Balanzone.

**Antonella:** if Mrs Balanzone were here.

**Eric:** E dove sono andati quei Balanzone?

**Eric:** And where have those Balanzones gone?

**Antonella:** Hanno lasciato un messaggio sulla segreteria telefonica. Senti.

**Antonella:** They left a message on the answering machine. Listen.

**Dottor Balanzone:** **Saremmo andati** a Rimini a trovare i genitori della signora Balanzone se non ci **avessero invitato** a partecipare a un seminario sulla square dance ad Austin! A dopo, amici! State bene! Buone vacanze!

**Dottor Balanzone:** We would have gone to Rimini to visit Mrs Balanzone's parents if we had not been invited to participate in a square dance seminar in Austin! See you later, friends! Stay well! Have a great vacation!

**Antonella:** E Pantalone?

**Antonella:** And Pantalone?

**Eric:** Ha lasciato questo biglietto:

Ha scritto: “Avevo intenzione di rimanere a Venezia, nonostante la folla di turisti, ma invece sarò nel Cadore... È vero, non amo le montagne. Comunque, a dire il vero, non ci **andrei** affatto se il Duca che mi ospiterà non **avesse** una nipote diciottenne che sta per ereditare un sacco di quei ducati.”

**Antonella:** Ho sentito abbastanza. Il duca e i suoi ducati. Certe cose non cambiano mai...

**Eric:** E tu, cosa **faresti** se non **dovessi** stare qua?

**Antonella:** Bene, mio caro, stavo proprio per dirtelo... Io, di queste ipotesi, non ne faccio. Come dovresti ormai ben sapere, neanche io rimarrò qui...

**Eric:** Non è possibile! Di nuovo?

**Antonella:** È estate... Roma!

Ciao, Eric! Ti mando una cartolina!

**Eric:** A presto, Antonella! Buon viaggio e buon divertimento!

**Antonella:** Grazie! Ciao!

**Eric:** Ma cosa faccio io adesso? Se ci **fosse** un modo di farlo, anch'io ci **andrei**. Se ci **fosse** giustizia in questo mondo, anch'io **ammirerei** il panorama dal Gianicolo... anch'io **mangerei** tartufo a Piazza Navona... anch'io **berrei** acqua Pansellegrino davanti al Colosseo...

**Eric:** He left this note:

He wrote: “I intended to stay in Venice, in spite of the crowd of tourists, but instead I will be in the Cadore... It’s true, I’m not fond of the mountains. Anyway, to tell the truth, I wouldn’t go at all if the Duke who will be hosting me didn’t have an eighteen-year-old niece who’s about to inherit a pile of ducats.”

**Antonella:** I’ve heard enough. The duke and his ducats. Some things never change...

**Eric:** And you, what would you do if you didn’t have to stay here?

**Antonella:** Well, my dear, I was just about to tell you... These hypotheses, I’m just not going to be making them. As you ought to know by now, I’m not staying here either...

**Eric:** It’s not possible! Again?

**Antonella:** It’s summer... Rome!

Ciao, Eric! I’ll send you a postcard!

**Eric:** See you soon, Antonella! Have a good trip and have fun!

**Antonella:** Thanks! Ciao!

**Eric:** Now what do I do? If there were a way to do it, I would go too. If there were justice in this world, I too would admire the view from the Janiculum... I too would eat tartufo in Piazza Navona... I too would drink Pansellegrino water in front of the Coliseum....

## Nota Grammaticale

Hypothetical statements are made up of two clauses: one describes a condition (la condizione) and the other states a consequence (la conseguenza) of the condition being met. We introduced the periodo ipotetico in Episode 20, “If You Can’t Stand the Heat.” If you missed that episode, you can tune in here:

**<http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/ra/episode.php?p=20>**

The three types of *periodi ipotetici* are defined by their degree of reality or possibility.

### **il periodo ipotetico del primo tipo – hypothesis of the first type**

In this type of hypothesis the condition is seen as real or likely, so its consequence is seen as real or probable as well. Both clauses will have verbs in the indicative mood (modo indicativo) in the appropriate tense. Sometimes the imperative (modo imperativo), or command form, appears in the consequence. In this type of hypothesis, the English “if” can often be substituted with “whenever”.

If the Dottore forgot his lines he would start speaking nonsense in Latin.  
Whenever the Dottore forgot his lines...

Episode 20, “If You Can’t Stand the Heat,” focuses on this type of hypothesis.

The hypotheses that we’ve taken up in today’s podcast are those of the second and third types. Both of these require the use of the conditional mood, which we discussed in Episode 21, “Lost in the Woulds.” If you missed that one, you may want to tune in here before we proceed:

**<http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/ra/episode.php?p=21>**

### **il periodo ipotetico del secondo tipo - hypothesis of the second type**

The condition is possible, but viewed as unlikely. The consequence, then, is also possible but viewed as doubtful or merely theoretical. The condition will have a verb in the imperfect subjunctive (l'imperfetto del congiuntivo) and the consequence will have a verb in the conditional (il condizionale).

Se tu **facessi** più esercizio fisico, **avresti** più energia.  
*If you performed more physical exercise, you would have more energy.*

The situation described is considered as being in the realm of possibility, but the person making this statement considers it unlikely or doubtful that the other person will actually exercise more often.



**Preparerei** dei “suppli al telefono” se mi **dessi** la ricetta.  
*I would prepare “suppli al telefono” if you gave me the recipe.*

Again, it’s all possible, but considered doubtful or merely theoretical.

### **il periodo ipotetico del terzo tipo - hypothesis of the third type**

Both the condition and the consequence are either contrary to fact or impossible. The verb in the condition will be either imperfect or pluperfect subjunctive, (congiuntivo imperfetto o trapassato) and the verb in the consequence will be either present or past conditional (condizionale presente o passato).

The classic example of this type of hypothesis is one that describes how things would have happened if conditions had been different. What makes this example “classic” is the fact that, since the opportunity has past, the whole thing is now clearly contrary to fact and impossible.

Se mi **avessi scritto** ti **avrei risposto**.  
*If you had written to me I would have answered you.*

You did not write to me and therefore I did not answer. Nothing we do now can change that, so this hypothesis is a classic of the third type.

**Avreste visto** uno dei migliori lazzi di Arlecchino se **foste arrivati** cinque minuti prima.  
*You would have seen one of Arlecchino’s best routines if you had arrived five minutes earlier.*

You didn’t see the routine because you arrived five minutes too late. The situation described by the hypothesis is impossible: third type.

Not everything contrary to fact or impossible is in the past.

Se **fossimo** marziani **saremmo** verdi e **comunicheremmo** usando la telepatia.  
*If we were Martians we would be green and we would communicate by using telepathy.*

We aren’t Martians, we aren’t green and we can’t communicate using telepathy. Nor is it possible for us to become Martian, turn green, or telepathize. Third type.

**Andremmo** a teatro a vedere Arlecchino se non **avessimo lasciato** i biglietti a casa.  
*We would go to the theatre to see Arlecchino if we had not left our tickets at home.*

The condition is an action that has already taken place (congiuntivo trapassato), so the action of the consequence cannot be carried out now (condizionale presente).

Actually the distinction between the second and third types is a very fine one that you don’t always have to be aware of. The important point is that if the situation being described is

considered unlikely, doubtful, contrary to fact or impossible, then you're going to use the subjunctive (congiuntivo imperfetto o trapassato) in the condition ("if") clause and the conditional (condizionale presente o passato) in the consequence (result) clause.

And very often, the same situation can be expressed by different types of hypotheses depending on the speaker's attitude. If you are fairly optimistic about getting that raise, you might say

Se mi **daranno** un aumento, **comprerò** una nuova macchina.  
*If they give me a raise, I will buy a new car.*

But if you don't really think it's likely to happen--your boss is as stingy as Pantalone--you are more likely to say

Se mi **dessero** un aumento, **comprerei** una nuova macchina.  
*If they gave me a raise, I would buy a new car.*

Of course, if the opportunity to get a raise has already come and gone, and you didn't get it, there's no alternative to the classic hypothesis of the third type:

Se mi **avessero dato** un aumento, **avrei comprato** una nuova macchina.  
*If they had given me a raise, I would have bought a new car.*

A final thing to remember is that it doesn't matter which clause, condition or consequence, comes first in the sentence. But when you're dealing with the second or third type, the subjunctive appears exclusively in the condition clause and the conditional appears exclusively in the consequence clause.

## Nota culturale

Travel by helicopter is not quite as common in Italy as Antonella's sudden departures might suggest. Cars are the most common means of transportation along with mopeds since these fast two-wheeled gadgets are extremely practical in the chaotic traffic of the largest Italian cities, even if they can drive everyone crazy (both drivers of cars and pedestrians). Italy beats out France and Germany with about 600 vehicles for every 1,000 inhabitants and 120 mopeds for every 1,000: almost double the number of mopeds in Germany and Holland.

Italy's Istat (*l'Istituto nazionale di statistica*) reports that 13 of every 100 persons use public transportation (buses and metro). Italy is quite behind many other European countries when it comes to the metro (subway) system. In 1992, a law allocated millions of euros to improve the system, but unfortunately only 2 out of the 57 proposed projects have been completed so far.

In cities such as Rome, it is almost impossible to dig anywhere without finding what could easily become yet another archeological site; of course, this slows down such endeavors significantly.

There is a great demand for taxis, which are expensive but very functional at any time of the day. Even though Italians love their cars, they hate having to hunt down a parking place so they do use buses, particularly to go downtown where many streets are open only to taxis and buses.

Unfortunately, the proverbial Italian lack of punctuality (which does not, of course, apply to all Italians) is quite evident when one waits for a bus; moreover, buses are often crowded, especially during rush hours (7:30-9:00am, 4:30-7:30pm) and seldom have air conditioning. Nevertheless, travelling on a bus can be a great opportunity to talk about politics or current events with the other passengers--if they are not too busy carrying on a conversation on their cellular phones!

Thanks for listening! And be sure to tell your friends that you heard it here on **Radio Arlecchino!**

Your hosts with the most – grammar,  
Antonella Olson & Eric Edwards  
*“Out of our minds ... into your ears”*