

6 Conditional Clauses

Conditional periods: the protasis comes first; it is introduced by one of the following particles: *jr*, *inn*, *hn*; the apodosis displays an initial construction (tense form of Verbal Sentence [rare], Nominal Sentence, Cleft Sentence, Existential sentence, "Emphasising" construction). In contrast, the main sentence of clauses of time displays a sequential construction (in particular, the NARRATIVE, *jw=f hr (tm-)sdm*). Conditional periods with *hn* clauses correspond to irrealis conditionals.

6.1 INTRODUCED BY *jr*

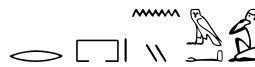
6.1.1 *jr* plus Initial Construction

(tense form of Verbal Sentence [rare], Nominal Sentence, Cleft Sentence, Existential sentence, "Emphasising" construction)

[• *jr* + PAST: this is a temporal clause; the main clause is formed with a sequential construction (cf. below, 7).]

• *jr* + PRESENT: there is one negative example, with a topicalised subject.

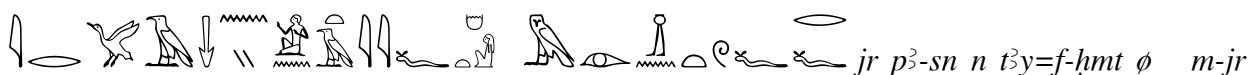


 *jr hy r-c bn p3-r-c bn pth () dj.t sdm.tw nkt r-hr(-n) n3-grgyw nty tw.tw hr sdm=w ... jw=k r tnw jw=k r pr nm* If really neither Pre nor Ptah let hear anything in account of the rumours which are heard ... where do you want to go? to whose house do you want to go? (LEM 46, 6)

• *jr* + FUTURE: there is an example of the stative future, and one with prepositional predicate

jr jw=k hdb.t, jw=k h3-c.t r p3-mw jw nm (r) wh3=k Wenn du tot und ins Wasser geworfen bist, wer wird dich dann suchen? P. BM 10052, 3, 16f. (GTR...KRI...GROLL Neg 105 ex. 218).

• *jr* + Nominal Sentence:



jn.tw=f r=f "If he is the brother of his (=the accused's) wife do not let him be brought against him" P. Mayer A, 3, 9–10. This is the type of nominal sentence with a pronominal subject that is rendered by *zero*: #N \emptyset #, rather than #N $p3y$ / $t3y$ / $n3y$ #; it is obligatory after *jr*, as also after *r-dd*, and similar.

• *jr* + Cleft Sentence:

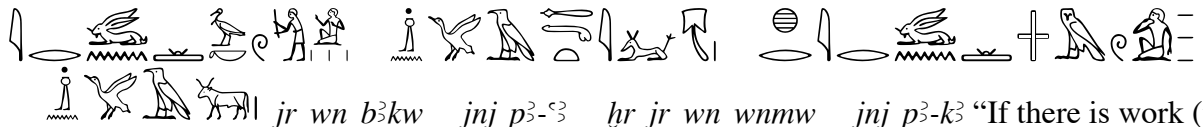


ø- $\dot{1}$. $jr=j$ m $knbt$ jw $m^{\text{c}}t$ m $^{\text{c}}k^{\text{s}}=s$ “If it was only a moment that I passed in the tribunal, justice was (at once) in its right place” P. Turin 1882, 2, 9–10 (*JEA* 41, 1955, pl. vii). The Cleft Sentence of the type #N $p^{\text{s}}-t^{\text{s}}-n^{\text{s}}$ - + relative construction# is found without the pronominal element under the same conditions, as the Nominal Sentence with zero subject expression (as above).



Ⓐ. jr $p^{\text{s}}-m^{\text{s}}c$ tny $jwzj$ (r) $ddzf$ bn $dd(zj)$ rmt nb $i.ptrzj$ irm A. “If it is the true what I’m going to say, will I not name every person that I’ve seen ?” P. BM 10052, 4, 24 (*GTR* pl. XXVIII).

• jr + Existential Sentence:

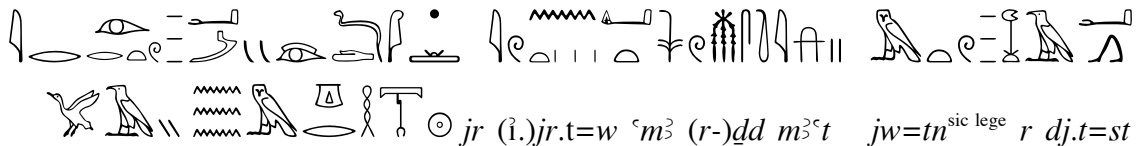


“If there is work (to do) they will bring the donkey, whereas when there is food they will bring the ox” O. DM 303, 3–4.



$pwyt$ hr $hrwzj$ hr $twzj$ $rh.kw$ $r-dd$ $b^{\text{s}}k$ n $p^{\text{s}}y-sr$ $^{\text{c}}3$ $i.h^{\text{s}}b$ nzj “And if/when there is not (enough) strength in you to fly at my voice, I shall still know that it is the servant of a high official who writes to me!” P. Sallier IV, vso., 5, 3–4 (*LEM* 92, 13–14).

• jr + Emphatising Form:



$mstj$ 2 $mt=w$ $h^{\text{s}}c(=w)$ (m) $p^{\text{s}}y-mw$ m grh “If they determine that they [their charges] are true, you shall put them in two baskets and they shall be thrown into the water by night” P. Berlin 10487, 6–7 (*LRL* 36, 9–10).

6.1.2 The classical jr construction: jr $sdm=f$ (prospective, rarely subjunctive)

Classical jr $sdm=f$ is found of all verbs, including intransitives of motion and adjective verbs (unlike the perfective $sdm=f$). Its passive form is jr $sdm.tw=f$; its negative form is jr $tm=f$ sdm . All these

forms can also be found in Late Egyptian, though almost exclusively in literary texts and school texts. An exception is the following.

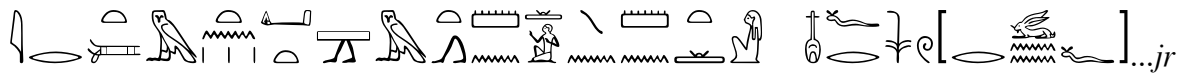


... jr ptr-zj m-dd dj-k hpr (i.)wn m-dj-zj jw-zj r jrj n-k w^c mn(k) n srmt

...“If/when I see that you [= the god Amun-Re^c] have (again) procured what I had (before) I’ll make for you (an offering of) one jar of sarama and ...” O. Gardiner 310 (*HO* pl. L, 2 rto, 2ff.).



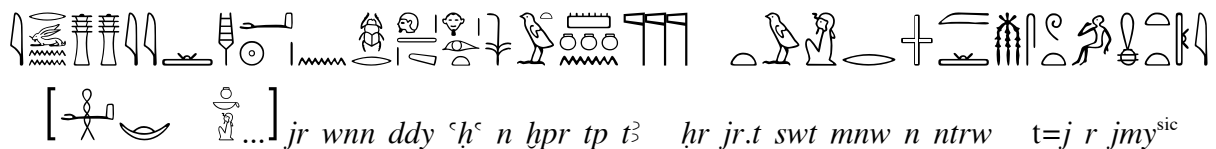
tm=k h^{3c} m^{3c} n mnt ms.n mnt jw=j (r) d^{3f} b³=k “If thou dost not quit the temple of N, born of M, I will burn thy soul” P. Ch. B. V, vso, 5, 2–3.



tm=tn dj.t šm.t mnt ms.n mnt nfr sw [r wnn=f] If you do not cause N., born of M., to depart better [than he] was [for his mother], [I will...] P. Ch. B. VII, vso, 1–2. An

existential sentence (#wn N.#) has to be transposed into a noun clause by means of prospective wnn=f.

jr wnn jb=k jr sš “If you have any sense, be a scribe!” (*LEM* 106, 1).



m^{swt} mj j^h “If the time of (my) being on earth will last, (I) making monuments for the gods, then I shall be reborn like the moon” Edict Horemheb 7r (*JNES* 5, 274 = pl. vi, l. 11).

Similarly, Adverbial Sentences, with adverbial/prepositional predicate, or a converb (progressive hr sdm; m pr.t), or a stative, are nominalised by means of prospective wnn=f.

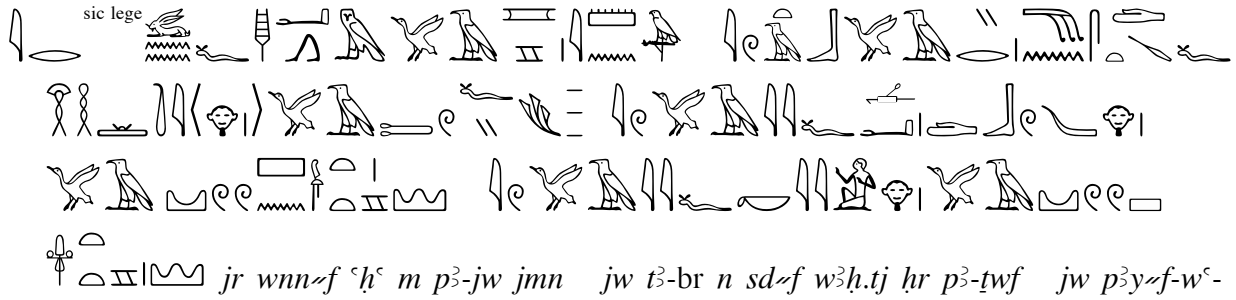


[jw]-zj r dj.t ht m nbw jwnw “If you are not listening to my words I’ll cause the sky to be upside-down, and I’ll put fire to the Lords of Heliopolis” P. Chester Beatty V, vso, 5, 6f.

(GARDINER *Chester Beatty Gift* pl. XXVIII) – threatening magical incantation.



“If you are asleep, I shall wake you” (?) Astarte 2, x+6 (*LES* 78, 6–7).



jr wnn=f ḥꜥ m p³-jw jmn jw t³-br n sd=f w³h.tj ḥr p³-twḥ jw p³y=f-wꜥ-

db ḥr p³-dw jmntj jw p³y=f-ky ḥr p³-dw j³btj “When it (= the giant ox) is standing on Amun’s Island (al-Balāmūn), the tuft of its tail lies on the papyrus marshes, while one of its horns is on the western mountain and the other on the eastern mountain” Truth 9, 2–3 (LES 35, 2–5).

6.1.3 *jr jw* (other than *jr* + FUTURE)

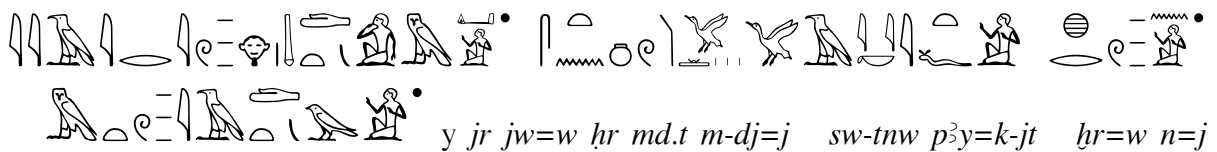
In many instances of this construction, a quality of potentialis condition is discernable: it is not impossible, though not probable that the assumption comes true.

• *jr jw=f ḥr sdm*



jr jw=f () ph r p³-nty p³-ḥm-ntr tpy n jmn jm mt=f

ptr p³y=k-shn m p³y=k-shn i.jr jth nꜥk nkt “Should I reach the place of the highpriest of Amun, and he sees your accomplishment, it is your accomplishment that will draw profit to you” Wen 2, 60–62 (LES 73, 6–9).



y jr jw=w ḥr md.t m-dj=j sw-tnw p³y=k-jt ḥr=w n=j

mt=w j³d=j “For when they talk to me, Where is your father? they will say, and will molest me” Truth 5, 6–7 (LES 33, 1–2).



jr jw.tw ḥr

šm.t r ḏmm wnn ḥr r tnw “If one is travelling to Edomim, where does the face turn ?” P.

An. I, ...

• *jr jw=f* + stative

jr jw p³y=k-

hry jw “In case that your superior has returned [... do not let] him depart from you” P. Geneva D 187, 6-7 (*LRL* 41, 16 – 42, 1).

• *jr jw=f* + prepositional phrase

jr jw=k m b³ty bn jw=j

(*r*) *h³y r n³y=k sktyw* “Even if you were vizier, I would not go down into your ships” P. Bibl. Nat. 198, II, vso., 6-7 (*LRL* 68, 9–10).

jr jw=f (m) ktt wr m j³wt=f m-r-pw j³w n ms hnms n=k s m d³r=k

“Whether he be a young one who is great in his office, or an old man in terms of birth, take as a friend for yourself someone compatible” Amenope 25, 2–4 ().

Negative: both *jr jw bn sw hr sdm* and *jr jw=f hr tm-sdm*.

hr jr jw bn sw

hr dj.t=f n=k jw=k r^{sic} lege jn n=j p³y=f-hnk “Now, should he not give it to you, you shall bring me his coat” HO XLV, 3, 2– vso (Davis 99:C755).

(Lass ihn vor dich bringen...) *jr jw=k (hr) tm-gm.t=f jw=k*

(*r*) *ptr n³-rmtw nty () jr h^c=f r dd n=k ...* “In case you don't find him, look at the persons who performed his arrest, saying to you ...” Hierat. P. Strasb. 39, 12 (ZÄS 53 tf. i + p. 20 f.); the construction resembles the negative narrative.

• *jr jw* + emphasising form

jr jw wrš=k

(*hr*) *b³k m b³-š [jw=k (r) jn].t[s...]* “Even in case you spend all day working with the she-donkey, you are to [bring] her [back]” HO 49, 3 rto 2ff.

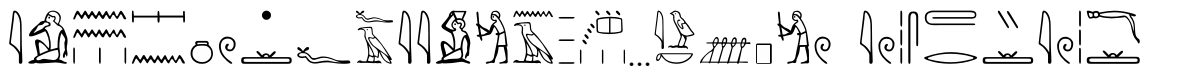

• *jr jw bn* + Noun (in a royal inscription, Ramses II)

hr jr jw bn jb n p³-wr š n ht šm.t jw=f hr dj.t hn{n} p³y=f mšc t³y=f

nt-ḥtr mt(=w) ḥdb p³y=f-ḥrwy “Or if it be not the desire of the Great Prince of Khatti to go, he shall send his troops & his chariotry and [they] shall slay his enemy” Hittite Treaty Karnak, 16– (KRI II, 228, 5–).

6.2 INTRODUCED BY inn



• inn + PAST

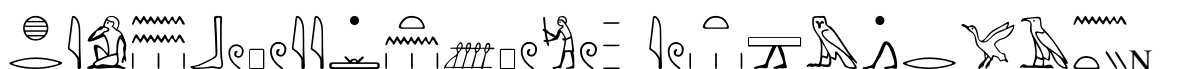
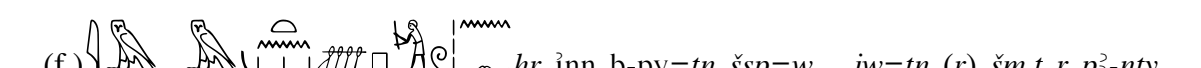


inn kn=f f³y n³-jt jw=k (r) šsp=w
jw=w (r) sphr jw=w mh mt=k s'k=w r t³y=w-šnw “If he has finished transporting the grain, you shall receive it enregistered ain full and enter it into its granary” (LRL 9, 11–12).

With stative




inn n³-ḥtmw wd³ wh³=sn “If the seals are intact, search for them” O. Cairo 25672 (ČERNÝ JEA 27, 108 no. 18).

Negative PAST



inn m-py=k {hr} sš hr p³-dm' (čm')
jm in.tw=f n=j tw=j ³s.k n=f “If you have not written on the papyrus, let it be brought to me; I am in a hurry for it” inO. Berlin 10628, 4 (Hier. Pap. Berlin III, 39; ČERNÝ JEA 27, 108 no. 13); m-, variant of negation b-, cf. Coptic ⲙⲡⲉⲕⲗ.



 (f.) *inn b-py=tn šsp=w jw=tn (r) šm.t r p³-nty*
 ...*mt=tn šsp=w n=s* “and if you have not received them you shall go ... and shall receive them from her” (LRL 50, 16–) 51, 2; ČERNÝ JEA 27, 108 no. 12).

• inn + PRESENT



inn n³y=k-šḥnw 'šš.t
r=k bn jw0k rh šm.t m p³y-šḥn n pr-š “If your orders are too many for you, you will not be able to walk in (i.e., accomplish) this order from Pharaoh” (LRL 69, 15; ČERNÝ JEA 27, 108 no. 17).



jn.tw=f hr inn mn k³ jm jn.tw p³-h^ctj hn^c p³-wt “If you give away the bull, send it; but if there is no bull, send the bed and the coffin” O. Berlin 112630).



jw=j m nmh “But if you say: Out from here! I shall be an orphan” (LRL 68, 2; ČERNÝ *JEA* 27, 108 no. 14).



“well, if (he) is given to her, cause [—” O. DM 663, 5.

Negative PRESENT



jm in.tw n=j t³y=[j-³t] “and if you do not give them, let my she-donkey be returned to me” O. Edgerton I, ii, 2–3 (ČERNÝ *JEA* 27, 108 no. 16).

inn + FUTURE

inn jw=tn (r) dd i.g³ g³y=j “If you bid me to lie, I will lie” P. Mayer A, 8, 8 (ČERNÝ *JEA* 27, 108 no. 20).



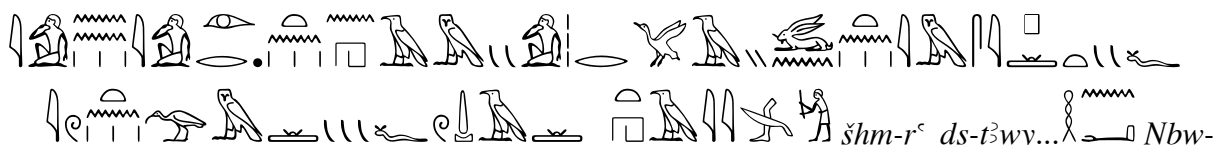
jw=w m rmt(w) nmh(w) n p³-t³ n pr-³ .w.s. “If she bear either son or daughter, they shall be freemen of the land of Pharaoh” Adoption papyrus.

Negative


jr n³-hd i.gm=k inn bn jw=k (r) dj.t n=j jm=w jw=j (r) šm.t r dd=f n p³-h³ty-^c n jmntt

“As for the silver which you found, if you will not give me (any) of it, I will go and tell (of) it to the Mayor of the West” P. Mayer B, 4–5 (ČERNÝ *JEA* 27, 108 no. 23).

inn + emphasising form



šhm-r^c ds-t³wy... Nbw-

$h^c=s$  $\text{inn } \dot{i}.jr.tn \text{ nhm } r \text{ p}^c y-(i).wn=tn \text{ jm } (r) \text{ sjp}.t=f \text{ } jw=tn \text{ gm}.t=f \text{ wd}^3$

th (*šhm-šd-tšwy*)| ... hn^c ... “If it is concerning this tomb that you are rejoicing — in which you have been to examine it, finding it intact, yet (King) Sekhemshedtawy ... and ... has been violated.” P. Abbott 6, 23).

$\text{inn } .jr=tn \text{ } \underline{dd} \text{ } n=j \text{ } n-hr \text{ } n \text{ p}^3 y-nf \text{ } w \text{ } ptr(=j) \text{ } sw \text{ } (hr) \text{ } \dot{t}^3 y.s$ “If it is regarding this sailor that you say this to me, I have seen him take them” P. BM 10052, 13, 5 (ČERNÝ *JEA* 27, 108 no. 25; *GTR* pl. xxx).

inn + Existential Sentence

$\text{inn } wn \text{ m}^3 t \text{ m } \dot{i}.dd=k \text{ } mj \text{ } r \text{ } bl \text{ } r \text{ } sjp}.t=k$ “If there is truth in what you have said, come forth that you may be tested” P. Anast. I, 18, 4-5 (*EHT* I, 30, 8-; ČERNÝ *JEA* 27, 108 no. 27).

$\text{inn } wn \text{ m-dj}=j \text{ } \dot{z}hwt \text{ } m \text{ } shwt \text{ } \text{inn } wn \text{ m-dj}=j \text{ } ht \text{ } nbt \text{ } n \text{ } p^3-t^3 \text{ } \text{inn } wn \text{ m-dj}=j \text{ } šwtw \text{ } (\dot{š}wywt?)$
 $jw=w \text{ } (r) \text{ } psš \text{ } m \text{ } p^3 y=j-4 \text{ } hrd$ “If I have fields in the country, if I have any property in the land, if I have any merchandise (?), these shall be divided among my four children” Adoption Papyrus, vso, 7-9 (*JEA* 26, 1940, pl. vii).

$\text{inn } wn \text{ nkt } n \text{ } mr-pr \text{ } N. \text{ } m-dj=j \text{ } [...]$ “If I have anything that belongs to the Stewart N. [...]” (*LEM* 76, 1; ČERNÝ *JEA* 27, 108 no. 29).

inn + Cleft Sentence

$\text{inn } m \text{ } ky \text{ } \dot{i}.dj \text{ } sw \text{ } n=k \text{ } jm \text{ } ptr=f \text{ } sw$ “If it is another one who has given it (= the fake honey) to you, let him see it” P. Louvre E 27151 (*JEA* 64, pl. xiv, 8-9).

The apodotic constructions are:

Imperative

FUTURE

prospective $sdm=f$ (Mayer A, 8, 8)

perfective $sdm=f$ (BM 10052, 13, 5)

perfective passive sdm (Abbott 6,2)

6.3 INTRODUCED BY hn

• hn + PAST

$b-py=j \text{ } ptr \text{ } nty-nb \text{ } hn \text{ } ptr=j \text{ } wn \text{ } jw=j \text{ } (r) \text{ } \underline{dd}=f$ “I did not see anyone. If I had seen, I would have told it” P. BM 10052, 4, 11.

$hn \text{ } wn \text{ } ptr=j \text{ } wn \text{ } jw=j \text{ } (r) \text{ } \underline{dd}=f \text{ } n=k$ “If I had seen (someone), I would have told it to you” P. BM 10403, 3, 29.

With stative

hn mwt=j rh.tj

jb=j jw(=s) ḳ.tj n=s r nw “If your mother knew my heart she would have entered (her house) in time” P. ChB I vso, C 4, 3.¹

Negative

[hn b-py=k] jj.t wn jw=j (r)

ttt irm=k “If you had not come, I would have quarrelled with you” P. Bibl. Nat. 199, 5–9 + 196, V + 198, IV, 6 (LRL 5, 9–10).

In an early literary text, b-sdm=f may be encountered.

hn b-hpr=k hn b-ms=k jw jt bdt hpr m-r-ḥ “If you had not come into being, if you had not been born, barley and emmer would never-the-less have come into existence” HS 15, 2–3 (LES 57, 13–14).

• hn + Cleft Sentence

hn jt³ jw ny-sw p³y=j-t³ p³-

(i.)h³y r t³y=k-br mt=f jt³ p³y=k-hd wn jw=j (r) db³=f n=k m p³y=j-wd³ “If it had been a thief belonging to my land, I would replace it for you from my store-house” Wen 1, 18–20 (LES 62, 13–16).

• hn + Existential Sentence

hn wn (m-)dj=w ḥnh snb wn bn jw=w (r)

dj.t jn.tw n³-hwt “If they had had life and health, they would not have sent the things” Wen 2, 29–30 (LES 69, 15–16).

The apodotic constructions are:

wn (bn) jw=f r sdm (FUTURUM IN PRAETERITO): P. BM 10052, 4, 11; P. BM 10403, 3, 29;

(LRL 5, 9–10); Wen 1, 18–20 (LES 62, 13–16); Wen 2, 29–30 (LES 69, 15–16).

FUTURE with stative (intransitive verbs; literary texts):

jw(=s) ḳ.tj n=s r nw “she would have entered (her house) in time” P. ChB I vso, C 4, 3.

jw jt bdt hpr m-r-^c “barley and emmer would never-the-less have come into existence” HS
15, 2–3 (*LES* 57, 13–14).

¹ MATHIEU *La poésie amoureuse* (Bibliothèque d'étude, 115) 29 (and cf. n. 86, p. 42) offers a different interpretation: «Ah ! Si ma mère connaissait mon cœur, et que l'idée lui vienne à présent !».