

ZERO AND FIRST CONDITIONAL

ZERO CONDITIONAL (1): CERTAINTY

It is used to talk about real or possible situations which are always true. The result of the condition is an absolute **certainty**. The important thing about the zero conditional is that **the condition always has the same result**.

IF	CONDITION	RESULT
	PRESENT SIMPLE	PRESENT SIMPLE
If	you heat ice	it melts.
If	it rains	I stay at home.
If	I miss the 8 o'clock bus	I am late for work.
If	water reaches 100 degrees	it always boils.

2

ZERO CONDITIONAL (2)

The zero conditional is used to make statements about the real world, and often refers to **general truths**, such as **scientific facts**.

RESULT	IF/WHEN	CONDITION
I am late for work	if/when	I miss the 8 o'clock bus.
The ice melts	if/when	you heat it.
My boss gets angry	if/when	I'm late for work.
Water always boils	if/when	reaches 100 degrees.
You get purple	if/when	you mix red and blue.

3

Zero conditional. MAKE SENTENCES:

- (not / rain / the flowers / die)
- (I / wake up late / I / be late for work)
- (my husband / cook / he / burn the food)
- (Julie / not wear a hat / she / get sunstroke)
- (children / not eat well / they / not be healthy)
- (you / mix water and electricity / you / get a shock)
- (people / eat / too many sweets / they / get fat)
- (you / smoke / you / get yellow fingers)
- (children / play outside / they / not get overweight)
- (I / speak to John / he / get annoyed)

4

1. If you eat fast food,

- you will gain weight.
- you gains weight.
- you gain weight.
- you gained weight.

2. If you study hard,

- you get good grades.
- you got good grades.
- you getting good grades.
- you will get good grades.

3. When she works early,

- she woke up early.
- she will wake up early.
- she wake up early.
- she wakes up early.

Zero
conditional

5

4. When the radio plays,

- it's hard to hear you speak.
- it was hard to hear you speak.
- it is hard to hear you spoke.
- it's hard to hear you will speak.

5. I always wear a jacket

- when it will be cold.
- when it is cold.
- when it was cold.
- when it is being cold.

6. He never buys lunch

- if he doesn't has cash.
- if he no have cash.
- if he won't have cash.
- if he doesn't have cash.

Zero
conditional

6

7. Does ice melt

- a) if it is in the sun?
- b) if it were in the sun?
- c) if they are in the sun?
- d) if it will be in the sun?

8. What do you do

- a) if the teacher was sick?
- b) if the teacher had been sick?
- c) if the teacher will be sick?
- d) if the teacher is sick?

9. Does the computer work

- a) if you use batteries?
- b) if you used batteries?
- c) if you will use batteries?
- d) if you had used batteries?

Zero conditional

7

FIRST CONDITIONAL (1): REAL POSSIBILITY

IF CLAUSE		MAIN CLAUSE
If	present simple,	will + infinitive

It's used to talk about things which **might happen in the future**. Of course, we can't know what will happen in the future, but this describes possible things, which could easily come true.

- a) If it **rains**, I **won't go** to the park.
- b) If I **study** today, I'll **go** to the party tonight.
- c) If I **have** enough money, I'll **buy** some new shoes.

8

FIRST CONDITIONAL (2)

We use the present simple tense to talk about the possible future condition. We use WILL + base verb to talk about the possible future result. The important thing about the first conditional is that **there is a real possibility that the condition will happen**.

- a) She'll **be** late if the train **is** delayed.
- b) She'll **miss** the bus if she **doesn't leave** soon.
- c) If I **see** her, I'll **tell** her.

Sometimes, we use **shall**, **can**, or **may** instead of **will**:

- d) If you are good today, you **can** watch TV tonight.
- e) If you finish your report tonight, you **will be able to** hand it in tomorrow.

9

First vs. Zero Conditional

The **first conditional** describes a *particular* situation, whereas the **zero conditional** describes what happens *in general*.

Zero conditional:

If you sit in the sun, you get burned. (here I'm talking about every time a person sits in the sun - the burning is a natural consequence of the sitting)

First conditional:

If you sit in the sun, you'll get burned. (here I'm talking about what will happen today, another day might be different)

10

WHEN/AS SOON AS/UNLESS

It is possible to use other words instead of **if** in first conditional sentences:

ALTERNATIVE TO "IF"	WHY USE IT?	EXAMPLE
When	When the "condition" will definitely happen.	When I die, I'll leave all my money to charity.
As soon as	To emphasize immediacy	This situation is very urgent. I'll call you as soon as I have more information.
Unless	In place of "if not"	You'll fail the test unless you study. = You'll fail the test if you don't study.

11

WHEN

When: When the "condition" will definitely happen in the future.

- a) **If** I see Sam, I'll give him your message. (I'm not sure if I will see him or not)
- b) **When** I see Sam, I'll give him your message. (I will **definitely** see Sam)

12

AS SOON AS

As soon as: To emphasize immediacy.

- a) My feet hurt! **As soon as** I get home, I'll take off these high heels.
- b) **As soon as** we have enough money saved, we'll take a vacation to Costa Rica. We can't wait!
- c) I'll respond to your e-mail **as soon as** I can.

13

UNLESS

Unless: Substitute for "if not."

- a) You won't lose any weight **unless** you start eating healthier food. = You won't lose any weight **if you don't** start eating healthier food.
- b) I won't dance **unless** somebody invites me. = I will not dance **if** somebody **doesn't** invite me.
- c) **Unless** there's an emergency at work, I'll be home on time. = **If** there's **not** an emergency at work, I'll be home on time.

14

- 1) If I _____ (go) out tonight, I _____ (go) to the cinema.
- 2) If you _____ (get) back late, I _____ (be) angry.
- 3) If we _____ (not/see) each other tomorrow, we _____ (see) each other next week.
- 4) If he _____ (come), I _____ (be) surprised.
- 5) If we _____ (wait) here, we _____ (be) late.
- 6) If we _____ (go) on holiday this summer, we _____ (go) to Spain.

15

- 7) If the weather _____ (not/improve), we _____ (not/have) a picnic.
- 8) They _____ (not/go) to the party unless they _____ (be) invited.
- 9) If I _____ (not/go) to bed early, I _____ (be) tired tomorrow.
- 10) If we _____ (eat) all this cake, we _____ (feel) sick.
- 11) She _____ (stay) in London when she (get) _____ a job.
- 12) If you _____ (not/want) to go out, I _____ (cook) dinner at home.
- 13) I _____ (come) early, if you _____ (want).

16

- 14) He _____ (not/get) a better job if he _____ (not/pass) that exam.
- 15) I _____ (buy) a new dress as soon as I _____ (have) enough money.
- 16) She _____ (cook) dinner if you _____ (go) to the supermarket.
- 17) They _____ (go) on holiday if they _____ (have) free time.
- 18) We _____ (be) late if we _____ (not/hurry).
- 19) She _____ (take) a taxi if it _____ (rain).
- 20) I _____ (not/go) unless you _____ (come) with me.

17

Choose the correct option for the 1st conditional sentences.

1.
 - a) When I finish my homework, I will go to the party.
 - b) When I finished my homework, I will go to the party.
2.
 - a) If he want dinner, he will cook.
 - b) If he wants dinner, he will cook.
3.
 - a) If it is cold tomorrow, I stay home.
 - b) If it is cold tomorrow, I will stay home.
4.
 - a) He plays hockey if he has time tomorrow.
 - b) He is going to play hockey if he has time tomorrow.
5.
 - a) She will not watch the movie if the television is broken.
 - b) She will not watch the movie if the television will be broken.

18

6.
 a) Richard is going if he has time.
 b) Richard is going to go if he has time.
7.
 a) Do you drive if the car has gas?
 b) Will you drive if the car has gas?
8.
 a) If you need help, I will do it.
 b) If you needed help, I will do it.
9.
 a) I'm going to cook pizza if I can find the ingredients.
 b) I'm cooking pizza if I can find the ingredients.
10.
 a) If you are late for the meeting, the manager will be unhappy.
 b) If you are late for the meeting, the manager will be unhappy.

19

Fill in the spaces the correct form of the verbs to complete the 1st conditionals.

1. If it rains tomorrow, I _____ (not/go) to the park.
2. If she has time, she _____ (watch) the movie.
3. I won't come to class tomorrow if I _____ (feel) sick.
4. They will play hockey if it _____ (be) cold.
5. If he comes to the party, I _____ (not/come).
6. I _____ (not/leave) home, unless you _____ (call) me.

20

7. If you _____ (go) to class tomorrow, you _____ (can) understand the conditionals.
8. She _____ (get) the job as soon as she goes for the interview.
9. We _____ (not/go) if we _____ (have) to work.
10. We _____ (not/go) unless we _____ (be) free from work.
11. Where _____ you _____ (play) if the field _____ (be) occupied?
12. If it is warm this weekend, what _____ you _____ (do)?

21

- 1) If you _____ (not study), you _____ (fail) the test.
- 2) We _____ (die) if we _____ (not get) help soon!
- 3) If you _____ (look) in the fridge, you _____ (find) some cold drinks.
- 4) If there _____ (be) no oil in the engine, the car _____ (break) down.
- 5) I _____ (lend) you my umbrella if you _____ (need) it.
- 6) I _____ (call) her as soon as I _____ (get) home.
- 7) She _____ (not/come) to the party unless you _____ (bring) John.

22

- 1) The sea level _____ (rise) if the planet _____ (get) hotter.
- 2) If you _____ (eat) your sandwiches now, you _____ (have) anything for lunch!
- 3) You _____ (be) safe in an accident if you _____ (wear) your seatbelt.
- 4) If he _____ (save) all his money, he _____ (be able to go) on holiday to Canada.
- 5) I _____ (not come) with you if you _____ (not bring) John!
- 6) We _____ (not/buy) a new book unless the professor _____ (decide) to change it.
- 7) I _____ (book) the tickets as soon as you _____ (tell) me who is coming with us.
- 8) If you _____ (want) to hear from me, just _____ (call) me!

23

Sources

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24