

ZERO, FIRST AND SECOND CONDITIONALS

Conditionals

Conditional sentences express a condition (*If ...*) and the consequence of the condition. The consequence can be expressed before or after the condition:

If you win a sport scholarship, you can study at that American university.

You can study at that American university if you win a sport scholarship.

Note: If the condition comes first, a comma is used.

Zero conditional

We use the zero conditional to express things that are generally or always true (e.g. scientific facts):

If you heat water to 100 degrees centigrade, it boils.

Most people tend to be extremely aggressive if you accuse them of lying.

Note: In zero conditionals, *when* and *if* are often interchangeable. The present simple is used in both clauses.

ZERO CONDITIONAL

- ***Choose the best sentences below.***

1. (A) When I stay up late, I am tired the next morning.
(B) When I am tired the next morning, I stay up late.
2. (A) My little brother cries when he loses games.
(B) My little brother loses games when he cries.
3. (A) Coffee tastes better when you add a little sugar.
(B) When coffee tastes better, you add a little sugar.
4. (A) When I stay at home, I usually feel sick.
(B) I usually stay at home when I feel sick.

5. (A) When I start to lose weight, I go on a diet.
(B) When I go on a diet, I start to lose weight.
6. (A) If it rains, I take my umbrella to work.
(B) If I take my umbrella to work, it rains.
7. (A) When Thomas watches his favorite TV program, he feels bored.
(B) Thomas watches his favorite TV program when he feels bored.
8. (A) Carla cries when she watches sad movies.
(B) When Carla cries, she watches sad movies.

ZERO CONDITIONAL *with:* 'IF' / 'WHEN' + PRESENT SIMPLE



| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| "if" / "when" clause | main clause |
| If / When it rains, | the grass grows. |

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| main clause | "if" / "when" clause |
| The grass grows | if / when it rains. |

The zero conditional is used to talk about things that are always, or generally, true; it is also used to talk about scientific facts.

- **Complete the sentences below by making Zero Conditional statements.**

1. If I am late for class, _____
2. When he stays up very late, _____
3. People get hungry _____
4. If you study hard, _____
5. When she watches a movie, _____
6. When I cross the street, _____
7. I can't do my homework _____
8. He always smiles _____
9. If I miss the bus, _____
10. When you make lots of noise, _____

● *Match the clauses below.*

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. If I am late for class, | (A) if they don't eat. |
| 2. When he stays up very late, | (B) I always look left and right. |
| 3. People get hungry | (C) my teacher gets angry. |
| 4. If you study hard, | (D) when he is happy. |
| 5. When she watches a movie, | (E) I take a taxi to work. |
| 6. When I cross the street, | (F) he is very tired the next morning. |
| 7. I can't do my homework, | (G) the librarian gets angry. |
| 8. He always smiles | (H) if you want to lose weight. |
| 9. If I miss the bus, | (I) she likes to eat popcorn. |
| 10. When you make lots of noise, | (J) when it rains. |
| 11. Tea tastes sweet | (K) I watch a funny movie. |
| 12. You should eat less | (L) he listens to music. |
| 13. I always take my umbrella | (M) you get good grades in school. |
| 14. When I'm sad, | (N) if you add some sugar. |
| 15. When he cleans the house, | (O) if I don't have my glasses. |