

# The Zero Conditional — Lesson 2

## A2 Grammar Lesson — Student Worksheet

### Grammar Focus

We use the **zero conditional** for things that are always true — facts, rules and habits.

**If + present simple , present simple**

*If you mix red and white, you get pink. If the shop closes at six, the staff go home.*

Tip: we can often use **when** instead of **if**, with the same meaning.

### Exercise 1 — True or False?

*Read each sentence about the zero conditional. Write True or False.*

1. The zero conditional is used for things that are only true sometimes, not always. \_\_\_\_\_
2. We can use the zero conditional for scientific facts, like 'If you heat water, it boils.' \_\_\_\_\_
3. The zero conditional needs 'would' in the main clause. \_\_\_\_\_
4. We can use the zero conditional to describe rules, like 'If you're late, you lose points.'  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. In the zero conditional, the if-clause can come first or second in the sentence. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The zero conditional is only used for the future, never the present. \_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise 2 — Choose the Correct Verb

*Choose the correct form to complete each sentence.*

1. If you mix flour and water, it \_\_\_\_ sticky.
2. Milk \_\_\_\_ off if you don't keep it in the fridge.
3. If the train \_\_\_\_ late, we miss our connection.
4. If she \_\_\_\_ hungry, she has a snack.
5. The screen \_\_\_\_ off if you don't touch the phone for a minute.
6. If you don't lock the door, anyone \_\_\_\_ come in.

### Exercise 3 — Gap Fill

*Put the verb in brackets into the correct form (present simple).*

1. If you \_\_\_\_ (not / pay) the bill, the electricity stops.
2. Wood \_\_\_\_ (float) on water.
3. If the manager \_\_\_\_ (be) busy, her assistant answers the phone.
4. Cheese \_\_\_\_ (melt) if you put it in a hot pan.
5. If it \_\_\_\_ (snow) a lot, the school closes.
6. We \_\_\_\_ (walk) to work if the weather is nice.

7. If dogs \_\_\_\_ (not / get) enough exercise, they get bored.
8. The bell \_\_\_\_ (ring) if a visitor arrives at reception.

### Exercise 4 — Match the Sentence Halves

Match each *if*-clause with the correct result. Write the letter.

1. If you leave the freezer door open, \_\_\_\_
2. If a package arrives, \_\_\_\_
3. If you don't set your alarm, \_\_\_\_
4. If you press this button, \_\_\_\_
5. If two colleagues disagree, \_\_\_\_
6. If you skip breakfast, \_\_\_\_

Endings: (a) the printer restarts. (b) you feel hungry by lunchtime. (c) they talk it through calmly. (d) the food defrosts. (e) you oversleep. (f) reception signs for it.

### Exercise 5 — Build the Sentence

Put the words below into the correct order to make a complete sentence.

1. , / the / engine / key / the / If / starts. / you / turn  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. leave / if / you / goes / stale / it / out. / Bread  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. a / , / the / If / it. / in / receptionist / call / answers / comes  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. power / stops / The / a / is / cut. / there / lift / if / working  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. skip / lunch / I / If / headache. / a / get / I / ,  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. if / enough / grow / they / Flowers / get / sunlight.  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise 6 — Rewrite with "When"

Rewrite each sentence using 'when' instead of 'if'.

1. If you mix red and white, you get pink.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. If the shop closes at six, the staff go home.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. If I drink coffee at night, I can't sleep.  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. If the battery runs out, the phone switches off.

---

5. If the bus is late, we walk instead.

---

6. If he finishes his shift, he calls his family.

---

## Exercise 7 — Your Own Sentences

*Write your own zero conditional sentence for each topic.*

1. Write a zero conditional sentence about what happens when it snows.

---

2. Write a zero conditional sentence about a rule at home.

---

3. Write a zero conditional sentence about what happens when metal gets cold.

---

4. Write a zero conditional sentence about one of your morning habits.

---

5. Write a zero conditional sentence about a general fact about plants.

---

6. Write a zero conditional sentence about what happens when a meeting room is booked.

---

## The Zero Conditional — Lesson 2

A2 Grammar Lesson — Answer Key

### Exercise 1 — True or False?

1. The zero conditional is used for things that are only true sometimes, not always.

**False**

*The zero conditional is for things that are ALWAYS true, not sometimes.*

2. We can use the zero conditional for scientific facts, like 'If you heat water, it boils.'

**True**

*Correct — scientific facts are a common use of the zero conditional.*

3. The zero conditional needs 'would' in the main clause.

**False**

*No 'would' — both clauses use the present simple.*

4. We can use the zero conditional to describe rules, like 'If you're late, you lose points.'

**True**

*Correct — the zero conditional is common for rules and instructions.*

5. In the zero conditional, the if-clause can come first or second in the sentence.

**True**

*Correct — 'If it rains, we stay in' and 'We stay in if it rains' both work.*

6. The zero conditional is only used for the future, never the present.

**False**

*The zero conditional is about the present and things that are always true, not specifically the future.*

### Exercise 2 — Choose the Correct Verb

1. If you mix flour and water, it **gets** sticky.
2. Milk **goes** off if you don't keep it in the fridge.
3. If the train **is** late, we miss our connection.
4. If she **feels** hungry, she has a snack.
5. The screen **turns** off if you don't touch the phone for a minute.
6. If you don't lock the door, anyone **can** come in.

### Exercise 3 — Gap Fill

1. If you **don't pay** (not / pay) the bill, the electricity stops.
2. Wood **floats** (float) on water.
3. If the manager **is** (be) busy, her assistant answers the phone.
4. Cheese **melts** (melt) if you put it in a hot pan.
5. If it **snows** (snow) a lot, the school closes.
6. We **walk** (walk) to work if the weather is nice.
7. If dogs **don't get** (not / get) enough exercise, they get bored.
8. The bell **rings** (ring) if a visitor arrives at reception.

### Exercise 4 — Match the Sentence Halves

1. If you leave the freezer door open, the food defrosts.
2. If a package arrives, reception signs for it.
3. If you don't set your alarm, you oversleep.
4. If you press this button, the printer restarts.
5. If two colleagues disagree, they talk it through calmly.
6. If you skip breakfast, you feel hungry by lunchtime.

### Exercise 5 — Build the Sentence

1. If you turn the key, the engine starts.
2. Bread goes stale if you leave it out.
3. If a call comes in, the receptionist answers it.
4. The lift stops working if there is a power cut.
5. If I skip lunch, I get a headache.
6. Flowers grow if they get enough sunlight.

### Exercise 6 — Rewrite with "When"

1. If you mix red and white, you get pink.  
**When you mix red and white, you get pink.**
2. If the shop closes at six, the staff go home.  
**When the shop closes at six, the staff go home.**
3. If I drink coffee at night, I can't sleep.  
**When I drink coffee at night, I can't sleep.**
4. If the battery runs out, the phone switches off.  
**When the battery runs out, the phone switches off.**
5. If the bus is late, we walk instead.

**When the bus is late, we walk instead.**

6. If he finishes his shift, he calls his family.

**When he finishes his shift, he calls his family.**

## Exercise 7 — Model Answers

*Accept any grammatically correct zero conditional sentence that fits the prompt. Models below.*

1. Write a zero conditional sentence about what happens when it snows.

**If it snows, the buses run late.**

2. Write a zero conditional sentence about a rule at home.

**If you make a mess, you clean it up.**

3. Write a zero conditional sentence about what happens when metal gets cold.

**If metal gets very cold, it becomes brittle.**

4. Write a zero conditional sentence about one of your morning habits.

**If I wake up late, I skip breakfast.**

5. Write a zero conditional sentence about a general fact about plants.

**If a plant doesn't get light, it turns yellow.**

6. Write a zero conditional sentence about what happens when a meeting room is booked.

**If the meeting room is booked, we use the small office instead.**