

## Conditionals - Zero Type

### Introduction

1) Conditionals are sentences with two clauses – a main clause and an *if* clause. Conditionals state that the action in the main clause can only take place if a certain condition in the *if* clause is fulfilled.

*If we don't hurry, we will be late!*

2) There are five main types of conditionals in English.

Zero conditionals are used to describe things that are always or generally true. Thus we refer to the real and possible situations, general truths, or scientific facts.

*If two people fall in love, they become a couple. (In general, people become a couple if they fall in love with each other.)*

Use the present simple tense in both parts of the zero conditionals. Note that the order of the main and *if* clauses is not fixed. Although when the *if* clause precedes the main one, use a comma.

IF clause	MAIN clause
<b>If + present simple</b>	<b>present simple</b>
<i>If the temperature <b>is</b> above 0 degrees outside,</i>	<i>the snow <b>melts</b>.</i>
<i>If my friend <b>invites</b> me over,</i>	<i>I always <b>accept</b> her invitation.</i>

Note that we can use *when* instead of *if* without any changes in the meaning.

***When** winter comes, the birds fly to the south.*

Zero conditionals are often used to give instructions. In this case, we use the imperatives in the main clause.

***Call me** if you need any help.*

*If you are not satisfied with your major, **change it**.*

**Short Story Dialogue**

- *If Josh calls me, tell him I'm busy.*
- *But what if he calls again?*
- *Tell him that I'm still busy.*
- *Why are you ignoring him?*
- *Well, if someone ignores me for a week, I do the same. I know that it is petty, but I'm really annoyed.*

**Independent Practice - Conditionals - Zero Type**

**1) Find mistakes in the following sentences.**

- a. If you not want to go, just let me know.
- b. You get green, if you mix yellow and blue.
- c. When people cry, if they feel better afterwards.
- d. If we don't cook anything at home, we eat when at the cafe nearby.
- e. When parents will spend a lot of time with their kids, it helps them to build a strong bond.
- f. You can call anyone if you don't have money on your phone.
- g. My friend always send me funny pictures when he is at work.

**2) Write two sentences with zero conditionals and one zero conditional with the imperative.**

a. ....
b. ....
c. ....

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## Independent Practice: Answers - Conditionals - Zero Type

### 1) Find mistakes in the following sentences.

- a. If you ~~not~~ **don't** want to go, just let me know.
- b. You get green; **(no comma)** if you mix yellow and blue.
- c. When people cry, if they feel better afterwards.
- d. If we don't cook anything at home, we eat ~~when~~ at the cafe nearby.
- e. When parents ~~will spend~~ **spend** a lot of time with their kids, it helps them to build a strong bond.
- f. You ~~can~~ **can't** call anyone if you don't have money on your phone.
- g. My friend always ~~send~~ **sends** me funny pictures when he is at work.

### 2) Write two sentences with zero conditionals and one zero conditional with the imperative. Sample Answers:

- a. The chocolate melts if you hold it in your hands.
- b. People use umbrellas when it rains.
- c. Let me know when you finish cooking.