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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IF</th>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>RESULT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRESENT SIMPLE</td>
<td>PRESENT SIMPLE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you heat ice</td>
<td>it melts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If it rains</td>
<td>I stay at home.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If I miss the 8 o’clock bus</td>
<td>I am late for work.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If water reaches 100 degrees</td>
<td>it always boils.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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

Zero conditional. MAKE SENTENCES:

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

1. If you eat fast food,
   a) you will gain weight.
   b) you gains weight.
   c) you gain weight.
   d) you gained weight.

2. If you study hard,
   a) you get good grades.
   b) you got good grades.
   c) you getting good grades.
   d) you will get good grades.

3. When she works early,
   a) she woke up early.
   b) she will wake up early.
   c) she wake up early.
   d) she wakes up early.

4. When the radio plays,
   a) it’s hard to hear you speak.
   b) it was hard to hear you speak.
   c) it is hard to hear you spoke.
   d) it’s hard to hear you will speak.

5. I always wear a jacket
   a) when it will be cold.
   b) when it is cold.
   c) when it was cold.
   d) when it is being cold.

6. He never buys lunch
   a) if he doesn’t has cash.
   b) if he no have cash.
   c) if he won’t have cash.
   d) if he doesn’t have cash.
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

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.

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.

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)

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)

WHEN/AS SOON AS/UNLESS

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

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

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.

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.

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).

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 wants 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.

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.
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 unhappy.

11. If it rains tomorrow, I _________ (not/go) to the park.

12. If she has time, she ____________ (watch) the movie.

13. I won’t come to class tomorrow if I ___________ (feel) sick.

14. They will play hockey if it ____________ (be) cold.

15. If he comes to the party, I ___________ (not/come).

16. I _________ (not/leave) home, unless you __________ (call) me.

17. If you ______ (go) to class tomorrow, you _____________ (can) understand the conditionals.

18. She ____________ (get) the job as soon as she goes for the interview.

19. We _______ (not/go) if we ________ (have) to work.

20. We ______ (not/go) unless we ________ (be) free from work.

21. Where ______ you _________ (play) if the field ______ (be) occupied?

22. If it is warm this weekend, what ________ you ________ (do)?

23. The sea level _____________ (rise) if the planet ___________ (get) hotter.

24. If you ____________ (eat) your sandwiches now, you ___________ (have) anything for lunch!

25. You ____________ (be) safe in an accident if you ________ (wear) your seatbelt.

26. If he ___________ (save) all his money, he ________ (be able to go) on holiday to Canada.

27. I __________ (not come) with you if you ____________ (not bring) John!

28. We ___________ (not/buy) a new book unless the professor __________ (decide) to change it.

29. I ___________ (book) the tickets as soon as you _____________ (tell) me who is coming with us.

30. If you __________ (want) to hear from me, just __________ (call) me!

Sources
- http://www.esol4english.net/first-conditional-when-as-nas-as-unless