

ZERO AND FIRST TYPE OF CONDITIONALS:

Patterns

1. IF + PRESENT, PRESENT

Example: *If he takes vitamins every day, he doesn't get sick. / He doesn't get sick if he takes vitamins every day.*

- This is called the **zero conditional**.
- We use this conditional to show an outcome that happens if a specific **repeated** condition is met, or for **general truths** or **natural laws**.
-If you don't water plants regularly, they die.
- If you heat ice, it turns into water.
- The verbs in the **if** clause and in the **main clause** will both be **simple present** verbs (remember that third person singular verbs end in -s).
- For all the conditional patterns, the *if* clause and the *main clause* order doesn't matter—the meaning is the same. However, a comma is needed when the *if* clause comes before the main clause.

2. IF + PRESENT, WILL + VERB

Example: *If she studies for the test, she will get a good grade. / She will get a good grade if she studies for the test.*

- This is called the **first conditional** or the **real conditional**.
- Use this conditional to show a **likely** or **possible** outcome that will probably happen if a specific condition is met. More specifically, it is used express something that will **probably** happen in the future. e.g. *If Paul gets the job, he will move to London.*
- The verb in the *if* clause is a **simple present** verb, and the verb in the *main clause* is **will + base** form of the verb.
- Remember: the verb in the *if* clause will end in -s if the subject is third person singular.
- In the main clause we may also have modal verbs (Can / May / Must + infinitive) or Imperative
e.g. *If you touch that button, you may be electrocuted.*
If you get thirsty, let me know.
if you find a seat, you can get some rest.
If you notice something strange, you must call the police.

EXERCISE Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tenses (Zero and First Conditional Sentences).

1. If I see him, I _____ (give) him a lift.
2. The table will break if you _____ (sit) on it.
3. If he _____ (eat) all that, he will be ill.
4. If I find your passport, I _____ (telephone) you.
5. The police _____ (arrest) him, if they catch him.
6. If he _____ (read) in bad light, he will ruin his eyes.
7. Someone _____ (steal) your car if you leave it unlocked.
8. What will happen if my parachute _____ (not open)?
9. If he _____ (wash) my car, I'll give him \$10.
10. If she _____ (need) a radio, she can borrow mine.
11. If you _____ (not go) away, I'll call the police.
12. If he _____ (be) late, we'll go without him.
13. She will be absolutely furious if she _____ (hear) about this.
14. If you put on the kettle, I _____ (make) some tea.
15. If you give my dog a bone, he _____ (bury) it.
16. If we leave the car here, it _____ (not be) in anybody's way.
17. He'll be late for the train if he _____ (not start) at once.
18. If you come late, they _____ (not let) you in.
19. If he _____ (go) on telling lies, nobody will believe a word he says.
20. Unless he _____ (sell) more, he won't get much commission.
21. If I lend you \$10, when _____ you _____ (repay) me?
22. We'll have to move upstairs if the river _____ (rise) any higher.
23. If he _____ (work) hard today, can he have a holiday tomorrow?
24. Ice _____ (turn) to water if you heat it.
25. If the house _____ (burn) down, we can claim compensation.
26. If you _____ (not like) this one, I'll bring you another.
27. Unless you are more careful, you _____ (have) an accident.
28. Tell him to ring me up if you _____ (see) him.
29. If I tell you a secret, _____ you _____ (promise) not to tell it to anyone else?
30. If you kindly sit down, I _____ (make) enquiries for you.
31. Unless I have a quiet room, I _____ (not be able) to do any work.
32. Should you require anything else, please _____ (ring) the bell for the attendant.

Source: These activities have been taken from "A Practical English Grammar. Exercises 1" by Thomson and Martinet. (Third Edition)