Lingoda

GRAMMAR

Zero and first conditionals

LEVEL
Elementary (A2)

NUMBER
EN_A2_2093G

LANGUAGE
English

Learning outcomes

- I can form simple sentences with the zero and first conditional.

- I can distinguish between the use of the zero and first conditional.

Warm-up

Read the expressions below. What do you think they mean? When would you say them?

If you want something done properly, do it yourself!

If it rains, it pours!

If at first you don't succeed, try and try again!
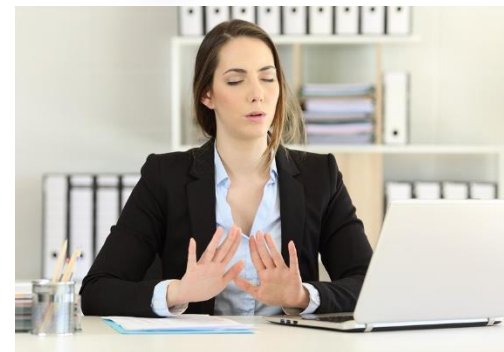
Expressions with the zero conditional

If you want something done properly, do it yourself!

When it rains, it pours!

If at first you don't succeed, try and try again!

It's better to do something yourself, rather than ask someone else and not be satisfied with the result.

Lots of bad things happen at the same time. For example, all your kitchen appliances break in one week!

Don't give up, keep trying!

The zero conditional

- Conditional statements use the word *if* and a main clause.
- The **zero conditional** is one kind of conditional sentence. The verbs in the **if clause** and the **main clause** are both in the **present simple**.

if clause	main clause
If the temperature rises in the Arctic,...	the ice cap melts.
If it rains,...	the pavement gets wet.
If I study hard,...	my mum buys me an ice cream.

The zero conditional

- The **zero conditional** can be used to tell someone what to do.
- Usually, the **main clause** and the **if clause** can be switched without changing the meaning of the sentence.

if clause	main clause
If you are tired,...	sleep.
If Samantha calls,...	tell her I'm busy.
If you are hungry,...	cook something.

Multiple choice

Choose the correct answer to complete the sentence.

1 If my friend is angry with me, _____.

    a. I arrive.   **b.** I apologise.   **c.** I refuse.

2 If the temperature drops enough, _____.

    a. it fires.   **b.** then.   **c.** it snows.

3 If you go to the shop, _____ some soap.

    a. buy   **b.** buys   **c.** bought

4 If you are cold, _____ a jacket.

    a. wears   **b.** wear   **c.** to wear

5 If I am tired, _____.

    a. I party.   **b.** I rest.   **c.** I run.

Zero conditional: less polite and more polite

- Use the **zero conditional** to talk about things that often happen, or habits. You can also give people instructions by using the imperative form of a verb.
- Remember to use words like **please**, **could**, or **would** to make a request more polite.

less polite	more polite
If she calls, tell her I am here.	If she calls, **could you tell** her I am here?
If it rains, close the window.	**Would you please close** the window if it rains?
If she is hungry, give her food.	If she is hungry, **please give** her food.

Transform the sentences

Make the sentences more polite using **please**, **could**, or **would**.

1 If they arrive, open the door. ❯
> *If they arrive, please open the door*
> *If they arrive, could you please open the door?*

2 If I go on holiday, water my plants. ❯

3 If he is tired, let him sleep. ❯

4 If it is sunny, wear sunblock. ❯

5 If the movie starts, be quiet. ❯

6 If my laptop breaks, fix it. ❯

Giving advice

1. **Imagine** someone is visiting your country for the first time.
2. **Give** them some advice in breakout rooms or together as a class.
3. **Use** the phrases below to help you.

If you visit my country…

you can't…

you should…

When you are in my country…

The first conditional

- The **first conditional** is used to make predictions about events in the future that could happen.
- Use the **present tense** in the **if clause** and **will** + **infinitive** (or **future**) in the **main clause**.

if clause	main clause
If I am late,...	my boss **will be** angry.
If it rains,...	I **will get** wet.
If you study hard,...	you **will pass** the exam.

Complete the sentences

Choose the correct answer to complete the sentence.

1 If I _____ out tonight, I will go to the cinema.

    a. go   **b.** will go

2 If you _____ home late, I will be angry.

    a. come   **b.** will come

3 I _____ you tomorrow if we don't see each other later today.

    a. call   **b.** will call

4 We _____ late if we don't leave soon!

    a. be   **b.** will be

5 If I _____ dinner, I will cook lasagne.

    a. cook   **b.** will cook

Practise using the first conditional

Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

1 If it rains all weekend,…

> *If it rains all weekend, I will stay inside and read a book.*

2 If I arrive at work late tomorrow,…

>

3 I'll be happy if…

>

4 I'll go to bed early if…

>

5 If it's sunny all weekend…

>

6 I'll be disappointed if…

>

Choose the correct option

1. **Choose** the correct answer in parentheses.
2. Then **answer** the questions.

1 What (will you do/do you do) if your best friend visits you this weekend?

2 If you (will have/have) some free time, what do you do?

3 Who do you call if there (is/will be) an emergency?

4 Where (will you go/do you go) if you have a month's holiday next summer?

5 If your friend (forgets/will forget) your birthday, what will you do?
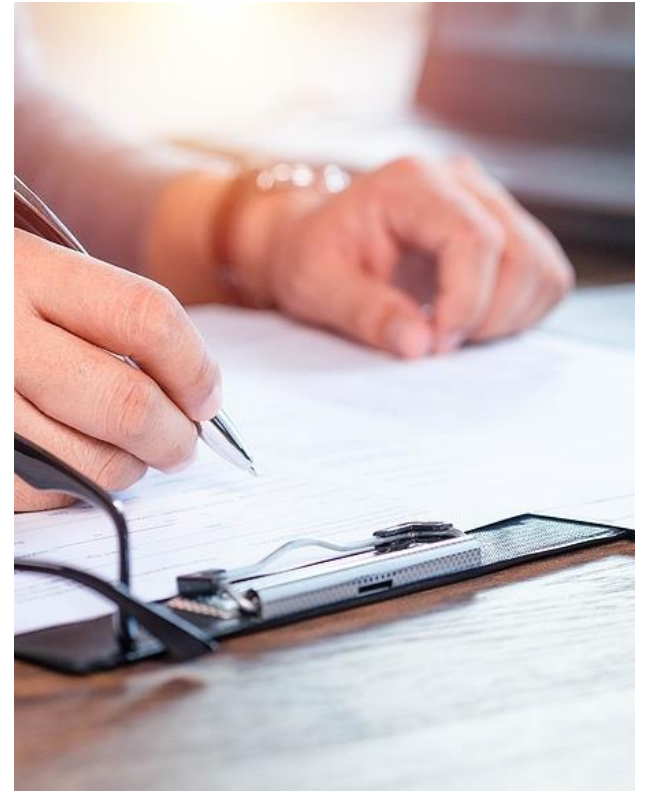
Discuss

Complete the prompt below.

If I eat biscuits, I am happy!

Think of three emotions. Write a conditional sentence to explain when you feel that way.

Share your sentences with the rest of the class!

Let's reflect!

- Can you form simple sentences with the zero and first conditional?

- Can you distinguish between the use of the zero and first conditional?

Your teacher will now make one suggestion for improvement for each student.

End of the lesson

Idiom

When life gives you lemons...

Meaning: We often use this phrase to suggest that even bad situations can have a positive side.

Example: I've just been told that my car can't be fixed until next week... I guess I'll get plenty of exercise walking to work. When life gives you lemons...

Additional practice

Match the parts of the sentences

1 If water is cold enough,...

2 If she is hungry,...

3 If you like her,...

4 If metal gets hot enough,...

5 If you want the book,...

6 If I am happy,...

7 If you read my message,...

a ...it melts.

b ...talk to her.

c ...please reply.

d ...I smile.

e ...it freezes.

f ...buy it.

g ...cook for her.

Complete the sentences

Choose the correct answer to complete the sentence.

1 If it _____ tonight, I will stay at home.

    a. rains   **b. will rain**

2 I will be happy if my holiday _____ approved.

    a. is   **b. will be**

3 If they _____ late, we will start without them.

    a. are   **b. will be**

4 They _____ their wedding outside if the weather is nice.

    have   **b. will have**

5 If the parking lot is not full, I _____ a good parking spot.

    a. find   **b. will find**

Discuss

Answer the questions below.

What will you do if your neighbours annoy you?

What will you do if someone rings you during an English lesson?

Answer key

P.7: 1.) b 2.) c 3.) a 4.) b 5.) b
P.12: 1.) a 2.) a 3.) b 4.) b 5.) a
P.14: 1.) will you do 2.) have 3.) is 4.) will you go 5.) forgets
P.19: 1.) e 2.) g 3.) b 4.) a 5.) f 6.) d 7.) c
P.20: 1.) a 2.) a 3.) a 4.) b 5.) b

Summary

The zero conditional:
- Conditional statements use the word *if* and a main clause.
- In the **zero conditional** verbs in the **if clause** and **main clause** are both in the **present simple**.
- Usually, the **main clause** and the **if clause** can be switched without changing the meaning of the sentence → *If it rains, the pavement gets wet / The pavement gets wet if it rains.*

The zero conditional:
- Use the **zero conditional** to talk about things that often happen, or habits.
- You can also give people instructions by using the imperative form of a verb.
- Remember to use words like *please*, *could*, or *would* to make a request more polite.
- *If you are tired, sleep. If she is hungry, could you please give her food.*

The first conditional:
- The **first conditional** is used to make predictions about events in the future that could happen.
- Use the **present tense** in the **if clause** and **will** + **infinitive** (or **future**) in the **main clause**.
- *If I am late, my boss will be angry.*

Vocabulary

to rise

ice cap

pavement

to water

sunblock

Notes