Zero Conditional

WHEN TO USE, HOW TO USE, EXAMPLES

When to use the zero conditional

- 1. To make true, factual statements about the real world
 - The time frame is now, or is always valid.
 - The situation is possible and real.

2. To give simple instructions

Zero conditional format

If clause (condition)

Main clause (result)

if/when + simple present

simple present

(If this happens

this happens)

The order is not fixed, so you can swap the condition and result.

You might have to pay attention to pronouns.

Zero conditional examples

- 1. Making factual statements.
- ➤If/when you heat ice, it melts.
- ▶Ice melts if/when you heat it.
- ➤ If/when people eat too much, they get fat.
- ➤ People get fat if/when they eat too much.
- ➤ If/when you mix blue and yellow, you get green.
- ➤ You get green if you mix blue and yellow.

Zero conditional examples

2. Giving instructions

- ➤ If Bob calls, tell him I'll call him back later.
- Tell Bob I'll call him later if he calls.
- >Ask John if you're not sure what to do.
- ➤ If you're not sure what to do, ask John.
- ► If you want to drive with us, get here before 7.
- ➤ Get here before 7 if you want to drive with us.