

English Grammar – The Zero Conditional (The “Factual” Conditional – Always True)

We use the **zero conditional** when the result of the condition is always true, like a scientific fact. It is true for **everybody**. For example:

Ice. Put it in a pan. Heat the pan. What happens? The ice melts (it becomes water). Always!

We often use the word “you” to represent any person. It can also be used for philosophical discussions.

IF / WHEN	condition	<i>then</i> (optional)	result
	present simple		present simple
If	you heat ice	<i>then</i>	it melts .
If	you heat ice	,	it melts .
When	you heat ice	,	it melts .

More examples:

If you study,		you learn.
If you don't study,	<i>(then)</i>	you don't learn.
If you eat,		you live.
If you don't eat,		you die.

We can use this structure for popular “sayings”:

- If you don't try, you don't succeed.
- If you lie down with dogs, you get up with fleas.

Exercise. Create sentences using the zero conditional:

1. work -> money _____
2. eat a lot -> fat _____
3. drink too much -> drunk _____
4. not breathe -> die _____

Recommended video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WlStOWpZlyY> (2 mins)