



The Zero Conditional — A2 exercises

Printable worksheet · 23 questions · answer key with explanations on the last page
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Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 23

A. Multiple choice

10 questions

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- If you heat ice, it _____.
A) will melt B) melts C) melted D) is melting
- If I ____ too much coffee, I can't sleep.
A) will drink B) drink C) drank D) am drinking
- Plants die if they ____ enough water.
A) won't get B) don't get C) didn't get D) aren't getting
- Which sentence is a zero conditional?
A) If it rains, I'll stay home. B) If it rains, the streets flood.
C) If it rained, I would stay. D) If it had rained, I'd have stayed.
- If the light ____ red, stop.
A) will turn B) turns C) turned D) is turn
- Where does the comma go?
A) Only when the if clause comes first. B) Only when the if clause comes second.
C) Always. D) Never.
- Water freezes if the temperature ____ below zero.
A) will fall B) falls C) fell D) is falling
- Which word can usually replace if in a zero conditional?
A) unless B) when C) although D) because
- If you press this button, the machine ____.
A) will start B) starts C) started D) is starting
- My dog barks if somebody ____ the doorbell.
A) will ring B) rings C) rang D) is ringing

B. Fill in the blank

8 questions

Write the missing word or words in the gap.

- If you heat water to a hundred degrees, it _____.
- If I _____ breakfast, I feel terrible by eleven.

3. Plants die if they _____ get enough light.
4. If the alarm sounds, _____ the building immediately.
5. My phone _____ off if the battery gets too hot.
6. If you press this button, the door _____.
7. Metal expands _____ you heat it.
8. If it _____ heavily, the road outside floods.

C. Sentence building

5 questions

Put the words in the correct order and write the sentence on the line.

1. it / melts. / heat / you / If / ice,

State a scientific fact with a comma after the if clause.

2. heat / if / boils / it / enough. / you / Water

State the same kind of fact with no comma.

3. sleep. / drink / I / I / can't / coffee / If / late,

Describe a personal pattern.

4. water. / if / they / Plants / no / die / get

State a general truth about gardening.

5. the / the / If / building. / alarm / sounds, / leave

Give a safety instruction.

Answer key

Every answer carries the reason behind it. Read the reason for the questions you got right as well — that is where you find out whether you were right for the right reason.

A. Multiple choice

1. **B) melts** — Both halves of a zero conditional are in the present simple.
2. **B) drink** — The if clause takes the present simple, never will.
3. **B) don't get** — A general truth uses the present simple in both clauses.
4. **B) If it rains, the streets flood.** — Both clauses in the present simple describe something always true.
5. **B) turns** — An instruction uses the present simple in the if clause.
6. **A) Only when the if clause comes first.** — If the sentence starts with if, a comma separates the two clauses.
7. **B) falls** — A scientific fact takes the present simple throughout.
8. **B) when** — When works in place of if when the result is always true.
9. **B) starts** — Both clauses stay in the present simple.
10. **B) rings** — A regular reaction takes the present simple.

B. Fill in the blank

1. **boils** — A scientific fact takes the present simple in both clauses.
2. **skip** — A personal habit uses the present simple after if.
3. **don't** — The negative present simple expresses a repeated condition.
4. **leave** — Instructions use an imperative in the result clause.
5. **switches** — An automatic reaction takes the present simple.
6. **opens** — Both halves stay in the present simple.
7. **if** — If and when are interchangeable when the result is always true.
8. **rains** — The if clause takes the present simple, never will.

C. Sentence building

1. **If you heat ice, it melts.**
2. **Water boils if you heat it enough.**
3. **If I drink coffee late, I can't sleep.**
4. **Plants die if they get no water.**
5. **If the alarm sounds, leave the building.**