

Lesson Plan:

Zero conditional

LEVEL Intermediate (B1)	TIME 60 minutes
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Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Recognize zero conditional sentences
- Form zero conditional structures accurately
- Use zero conditional to talk about **facts, rules, and routines**

Target Structure

If / When + present simple, present simple

If you heat ice, it melts.

Materials

- Whiteboard & markers
- Situation cards or prompts (optional)
- Worksheet (optional)

1. Warm-up (5-8 minutes)

Activity: "What happens if...?"

Ask students questions and elicit ideas:

"What happens if you don't eat?"

"What happens if it rains a lot?"

Write student answers on the board naturally:

"If you don't eat, you get hungry."

"If it rains a lot, the streets flood."

Do **not** explain the grammar yet—let them notice the pattern.

2. Presentation (10-12 minutes)

A. Meaning & Use

Write on the board:

- If you touch fire, you get burned.
- If it's hot, people drink more water.

Ask concept-check questions (CCQs):

- Is this always true? (Yes)
- Is this about the past or future? (Now / always)

Elicit:

→ **We use zero conditional for facts, rules, and things that are always true.**

B. Form

Write clearly:

If / When + present simple, present simple

Examples:

- If you mix red and blue, you get purple.
- When I'm tired, I drink coffee.

Highlight:

- Comma when the if-clause comes first
- If = when (same meaning here)

3. Controlled practice (10-15 minutes)

Activity 1: Complete the sentences

Students complete with the correct verb form:

1. If you heat water, it _____ (boil).
2. If people don't sleep, they _____ (feel) tired.
3. When it rains, we _____ (stay) inside.

Check answers together

Activity 2: Match the halves

Students match:

1. If you press this button...
2. When you don't study... a. ...you fail. b. ...the machine starts.

4. Guided practice (10 minutes)

Activity: "Finish the rule"

Students work in pairs to complete sentences:

- If you're late to class, _____.
- When people eat too much sugar, _____.

Encourage **general truths**, not personal stories.

5. Freer speaking practice (10-12 minutes)

Activity: "Rules & Facts"

In small groups, students create 5 zero conditional sentences about:

- School rules
- Health
- Technology
- Nature

Examples:

- If you don't wear a helmet, you get hurt.
- When phones run out of battery, they turn off.

Groups share with the class.

6. Error correction & review (5 minutes)

Write common errors on the board:

If you will heat ice, it melts.

If you heated ice, it melts.

Elicit corrections:

If you heat ice, it melts.

Review:

- Use? (facts / always true)
- Tense? (present + present)

Optional homework

Write 6 zero conditional sentences about:

- Your daily life
- School rules
- Science facts