

Lesson Plan: Zero conditional

Level: Intermediate (B1)

Time: 60 minutes

Target Structure:

If / When + present simple, present simple
If you heat ice, it melts.

1. Learning 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**

2. Materials

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

3. 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.

4. 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)

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. Free 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.

8. 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)

9. Optional homework

Write **6 zero conditional sentences** about:

- Your daily life
- School rules
- Science facts