

ZERO CONDITIONAL VS. FIRST CONDITIONAL

The Zero Conditional

We use the zero conditional to talk about permanent truths, such as scientific facts, and general habits. The structure is simple:

If + present simple,	present simple.
50% possibility	100% certainty

Here are some examples:

- If you heat water to 100°, it boils.
- If you eat a lot, you put on weight.
- If it doesn't rain for a long time, the earth gets very dry.

The First Conditional

We use the first conditional to talk about a realistic situation in the present or future. The structure of the first conditional is as follows:

If + present simple,	will + verb can + verb must + verb imperative form
50% possibility	100% certainty

Here are some examples:

- If you're free later, we can go for a walk.
- If they're hungry, I'll make some sandwiches.
- If you're not back by 5pm, give me a ring.

Reference:

Wall Street English (s.f.). How to use conditionals in English: zero, first, second, third and mixed. Retrieved from: <https://www.wallstreetenglish.com/exercises/how-to-use-conditionals-in-english-zero-first-second-third-and-mixed>