



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.

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

B. Fill in the blank

8 questions

Write the missing word or words in the gap.

1. If you heat water to a hundred degrees, it _____.
2. 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.

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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. **C) melts** — Both halves of a zero conditional are in the present simple.
2. **A) drink** — The if clause takes the present simple, never will.
3. **C) don't get** — A general truth uses the present simple in both clauses.
4. **A) If it rains, the streets flood.** — Both clauses in the present simple describe something always true.
5. **D) turns** — An instruction uses the present simple in the if clause.
6. **B) Only when the if clause comes first.** — If the sentence starts with if, a comma separates the two clauses.
7. **D) 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. **C) starts** — Both clauses stay in the present simple.
10. **D) 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.**