Zero Conditional

A zero conditional sentence is made up of two halves:

We use this structure when we describe what **always** happens as a result of something.

It is often used to describe scientific rules which are, by definition, unchanging...so the results **always** happen the same.

Examples:

If you take ice out of the fridge in summer, it melts.

A stone sinks if you throw it in a lake.

We can also use the zero conditional to say what we do **as a rule** in certain situations. Here, we are **not** talking about what we do in a particular, specific situation (e.g. *tonight*, *tomorrow*) but what we **always** do in these conditions.

If I get a headache, I go and lie down.

If I miss the train, my sister always gives me a lift to work.

First Conditional

Go To Quizzes >>> Conditionals

A first conditional sentence is comprised of two halves.

If + Present Simple Then Will

We use the first conditional to say what we will do in a certain situation in the future.

If it rains tomorrow, I will stay at home and paint the kitchen.

They will see Harry if he comes to the dinner party.

The negative uses won't.

She won't get to know him if he doesn't come!

If we study so little, we won't pass the exam.

Don't use will with if.

If I see him, I will tell him.

NOT If I will see him, I will tell him.

Note. Compare the zero and first conditional. In the first sentence, we are talking about what you always do, it's your rule, if you like. In

the second sentence, however, it is what you will do tonight, on that one specific occasion.

If there's nothing in my fridge, I ring for pizza.

If there's nothing in my fridge tonight, I will ring for pizza.

There are other expressions in English that are followed by the present simple in the same way as "if" is in first conditional sentences. *unless, when, in case, provided that, until, as soon as.* See below for examples.

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Complete these first conditional sentences. **Only** use contractions for negatives - *e.g.* won't/don't

- 1. If you (not/hurry)don't hurry____, we will be late!
- 2. If Enrico (pass)passes_____ his exam, he will be very happy.

3. However, if Enrico fails, he (not be) won't be very happy.
4. If you stay awake all night, you (be)will be very tired
tomorrow.
5. Alan (not / win)won't win the lottery if he doesn't buy a
ticket.
6. If you eat too much chocolate you (become)will become fat
7. We (not / go)won't goto the restaurant if you're not hungry.
8. If Rick drives too fast he (have will have an accident.